

Improving the Lives of California's Working Families

By Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg

The California Legislature has just completed an amazingly productive session.

We set the bar high, but our results exceeded even my ambitious expectations.

The question that faced us at the beginning of this session was obvious: What is the best way to use the fruits of California's strong economy to promote our future growth and to expand the opportunities for the families who have worked so hard to make that prosperity possible? And how do we accomplish all this in the face of a "New Economy" that confronts us with both special problems and unique opportunities?

The challenge is complex, requiring that we think about old problems in new ways. But the values that underlie this complexity remain constant: It is our job to create a climate that extends to every resident of the state the opportunity to make the most of his or her abilities.

This means making sure our children are healthy and have access to a quality education.

It means building the infrastructure that will allow commerce to flourish.

And it means protecting and improving the lives California working families on the job, in the market place, when they receive health care and on our streets.

As a result of these commitments, the Legislature approved landmark legislation that will touch the lives of every California resident.

The California Dream is still alive for the nearly 35 million residents of this state. And our job is to create a climate where those dreams can come true.

Furthermore, we need to take these steps in an atmosphere that gives Californians confidence in its elected officials and institutions of government. That's why we worked hard to make progress toward improving our own institutional capabilities. A new oversight office was created. Its inquiry resulted in the resignation of former Insurance Commissioner Chuck Quackenbush. And in the era of term limits, we established the Capitol Institute training program designed to quickly bring legislators and their staff up to speed so they can concentrate on the business of legislating.

The results of these efforts are recorded in the long list of important measures passed this year.

The Legislature's number one issue this past year continued to be improvements in the state's system of education. Measures passed this year include:

- ◆ Record appropriations for public schools, including \$1.8 billion in discretionary funds for grade schools;
- ◆ New accountability programs to make sure that schools are performing as they should;
- ◆ Programs to encourage more college graduates to enter the teaching profession and to retain those good teachers already in classrooms;
- ◆ College scholarships for every high school graduate who has financial need and a "C" average; and,
- ◆ Increased support for community colleges as the primary source of new skills for working men and women seeking to prepare themselves for jobs in the new, high technology economy.

In addition to investing in our future human resources, the Legislature also invested heavily in programs to keep California competitive in changing economic times. These include:

- ◆ Allocating more than \$7.8 billion to relieve traffic congestion on California highways through highway construction, mass transit systems and assisting local governments with transportation improvements;
- ◆ Providing a record \$570 million investment in additional housing for renters and the creation of new opportunities for homebuyers. Furthermore, lawmakers encouraged "smart growth" programs designed to keep housing in balance with the creation of new jobs; and
- ◆ Protecting our natural resources, both for the enjoyment of California residents and to promote economic development. The hallmarks were approval of record bond programs for new parks and the protection of natural resources, and the development of new water resources and flood protection.

Finally, the Legislature approved a raft of new measures designed to protect and improve the lives California working families on the job, in the market place, when they receive health care and on our streets. Measures passed include:

- ◆ Additional support for childcare for working families, including tax credits and support of facilities at schools;
- ◆ Making health insurance companies more responsive by requiring second opinion when necessary;
- ◆ Expanding the "Healthy Families" program to provide insurance coverage to more low-income working families;
- ◆ Approving a major overhaul of the laws regulating nursing homes to help ensure that seniors receive the quality treatment they deserve;
- ◆ Providing additional information on credit card statements so consumers will know how long it takes to pay off a balance if they make only the minimum payment;
- ◆ Tightening up new car warranties to protect consumers who end up with a "lemon;"
- ◆ Restoring the eight-hour day to make sure that workers are paid at time-and-a-half for overtime;

- ◆ Protecting older workers from arbitrary discrimination by prohibiting employers from firing them in order to reduce payroll;
- ◆ Bills to regulate the sales of firearms, including a restriction on the number of handguns that can be purchased each month and a measure to require future guns to be sold with safety devices; and,
- ◆ Increasing support for juvenile crime prevention programs.

I'm very proud of the work performed by my colleagues this year. But as successful as we were, it only provides inspiration to set the bar still higher next session.

There is an old saying from the Jewish Talmud that goes, "You are not expected to complete the task. Neither are you free to set it aside."

There is always more to be done to improve the lives of California's families, to strengthen our economy and to secure the future for our children. I look forward to next year's session.

Children

AB 150 (Aroner) California Child Support Automation System.

Requires the Department of Social Services, through the Franchise Tax Board as its agent, to develop, implement, and maintain the California Child Support Automation System (CCSAS), creating a single statewide automated system to facilitate the exchange of case information between counties, making it harder for noncustodial parents to escape responsibility and easier for custodial parents to work with the system.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 196 (Kuehl) Child support enforcement.

Establishes a Department of Child Support Services to administer all services and perform all functions necessary to establish, collect, and distribute child support. Restructures state's child support enforcement program to significantly increase accountability and responsibility for the program and maximize collection and delivery of child support to the children and families.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1015 (Gallegos) Healthy Families: eligibility.

Extends eligibility under the Healthy Families Program (HFP) to the uninsured parents of HFP children. HFP expenditures are approximately 67% federal funds and 33% General Fund. Federal financial participation would be required for this measure to be operative.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2012 (Shelley) Foster care providers: educational support requirements.

In order to better prepare children in the foster care program, AB 2012 appropriates \$5 million to expand the Foster Youth Services program by authorizing any county office of education, consortium of school districts, or consortium of county offices of education to provide educational services to children who reside in licensed foster care homes.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2900 (Gallegos) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Extends continuous eligibility for Medi-Cal to children 19 years of age and younger, assuring children a full year of uninterrupted health coverage from the date they are determined eligible for Medi-Cal.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 147 (Alpert) Medi-Cal eligibility.

Adopts the federal option to extend Medi-Cal benefits to foster youth up to age 21 and to eliminate existing income and resource standards for former foster youth.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 567 (Speier) Vehicles: child passenger restraint system: seatbelts.

Raises the requirement to use child safety seats for small children from under four years of age and under 40 pounds to under seven years of age. Increases fines for violations of child passenger vehicle restraint systems. Prohibits the sale of used child restraint systems. Authorizes a police officer to stop vehicles transporting children 4 to 15 years old if not properly restrained.

Signed by the Governor.

Consumers

AB 265 (Davis) Electrical restructuring: electric bills: bill stabilization.

Provides rate relief for customers of San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) by establishing a rate cap for customers in the SDG&E territory, including residential, small commercial and street lighting customers, hospitals, schools and other customers, or 95% of SDG&E's customers of \$0.065 per kwh retroactive to June 1, 2000.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 481 (Scott) Insurers: unfair claims settlement practices: policyholders.

Provides protections to homeowners by ensuring that in any settlement agreement related to an violation by an insurer of provisions relating to unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance, the Insurance Commissioner shall give first priority to policyholders in order to fairly compensate affected insureds.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 535 (Reyes) Telecommunications: services.

To protect families from deceptive pay-per-use phone services, requires telephone service providers to provide customers with information about pay-per-use features and blocking options. Provides that customers are entitled to a one-time waiver of charges for the inadvertent or unauthorized activation of such services.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 802 (Dutra) Insurance policies: disclosure of finance charges.

Requires every insurance policy, and insurance premium billing statement, to disclose the amount of periodic finance charges and any associated annual percentage rate. If the finance charge is a fixed fee, regardless of the amount of the loan on the balance due, the disclosure is not required to include the annual percentage rate associated with those charges.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 858 (Kuehl) Vehicle license fee offsets.

Increases from 35 to 67.5 percent the reduction in the fee that motor vehicle owners pay to register their vehicles. City and county revenue losses from this tax cut will be reimbursed by the state.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 970 (Ducheny) Electrical energy: thermal powerplants: permits.

Establishes expedited processes for California Energy Commission siting of both temporary "peaking" and permanent thermal powerplants to expedite siting of the cleanest and most efficient electricity powerplants while making major new commitments to conservation and demand side management programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1050 (Wright) Insurance: fraudulent claims.

Establishes the Organized Crime Prevention and Victim Protection Act of 1999, that increases auto insurance anti-fraud funding, and targets fraud control activities.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1290 (Davis) Warranties: motor vehicle manufacturers.

Expands the period of time within which a new motor vehicle may be determined to be a lemon to 18 months or 18,000 miles, whichever occurs first.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1778 (Lowenthal) Motor vehicle replacement parts.

Requires automobile repair facilities to notify customers whether crash parts being used to repair a damaged vehicle are original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts, or non-OEM parts.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1816 (Wayne) Simulated checks.

Completely prohibits the use of simulated checks. Deletes the language in current law that allows the use of simulated checks if "THIS IS NOT A CHECK" is printed diagonally across the face of the check.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1963 (Hertzberg) Credit cards.

In order to better enable consumers to understand their debt obligations, AB 1963 requires credit card issuers to provide with each billing statement sample calculations indicating the number of months and total cost to pay off the entire balance due on an open-end credit card account.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1607 (Figueroa) Consumer credit reporting agencies.

Requires a credit reporting agency to provide, upon request, the consumer's most recent credit score. Permits a consumer credit reporting agency to charge a reasonable fee (not to exceed \$8) for providing credit score information.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1718 (Sher) Warranties: new motor vehicles.

Expands the provisions of the lemon law to include new motor vehicles with safety defects and vehicles used primarily for business purposes. Allows consumers to assert the protections of the lemon law if the same problem with the vehicle is "likely to cause death or serious bodily injury if the vehicle is driven" and the vehicle has been subject to repair two or more times by the manufacturer or its agents, with the consumer at least once directly notifying the manufacturer of the need to repair the problem.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1745 (Burton) Landlord-tenant.

Provides that a landlord must give 30 days notice before increasing the rent, if the proposed rent increase is 10 percent or less of the rental amount when combined with all other rent increases for the 12 months prior to the effective date of the increase. Also provides that, if the rent increase is greater than 10 percent, the landlord must provide an additional 30 days notice.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1988 (Speier) Insurance fraud.

Enacts the Anti-Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Act of 2000 designed to reduce auto fraud by increasing insurer and Bureau of Automotive Repair inspections, enhancing penalties, and assisting consumers to know their rights regarding auto repair, and focusing state resources on problem areas for fraud.

Signed by the Governor.

Courts and Crime

AB 106 (Scott) Firearms: safety devices.

Requires the Attorney General to develop and implement minimum safety standards for firearms safety devices, and mandates that all firearms manufactured in California or sold or transferred by a licensed firearms dealer be accompanied by an approved firearms safety device and bear a safety warning label.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 202 (Knox) Firearms.

Prohibits any person from applying for more than one concealable firearm within a 30-day period, and no delivery shall be made to any person who has made an application to purchase more than one concealable firearm within 30 days.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 457 (Scott) School employees: sex offense: definition.

Adds electronic and computer-based sex offenses to the list of sex offenses that prohibit school districts from employing persons who have committed such crimes. Prohibits local education agencies from issuing temporary certificates to applicants with revoked or suspended teaching credentials.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 808 (Strom-Martin) Spousal support.

Requires the court, in considering the factor of age and health of the parties when making a permanent spousal support order, specifically to consider emotional distress and other effects resulting from domestic violence perpetrated against the supported party by the supporting party where the court finds documented evidence of a history of domestic violence against the supported party by the supporting party.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1727 (Reyes) Crime prevention.

Extends the operation of the Rural Crime Prevention Program through January 1, 2002, and extends the deadline of the Legislative Analyst's cost-benefit analysis from December 2000 to December 2001. The Rural Crime Prevention Program helps protect rural counties since they have unique types of crimes that require special task forces and often cover broad areas of land where the number of officers available to cover the area may not be sufficient to patrol and investigate the crimes that occur on farm land in rural areas.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1742 (Correa) Limitations of Actions.

Permits the prosecution of certain sex offenses within one year of the date on which the identity of the suspect is conclusively established by DNA testing, or within 10 years of the offense, whichever is longer.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1913 (Cardenas) Local law enforcement funding.

Appropriates \$242.6 million for local law enforcement programs: \$121.3 million to continue funding of the Citizens Option for Public Safety program; and, \$121.3 million to a juvenile justice initiative to be administered by the Board of Correction.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2418 (Migden) Jurors: eligibility. Provides that no eligible person shall be exempt from service as a trial juror by reason of sexual orientation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2425 (Corbett) Stalking.

Increases the longest prison term for repeat stalking by one year, makes technical revisions to the notice requirements for persons about to be released from jail on stalking charges, and requires, contingent upon a Budget Act appropriation, intensive parole for persons released from prison for stalking convictions, and requires Department of Corrections to evaluate the parole program and report to the Legislature.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2837 (Hertzberg) State nonemergency telephone number system.

Authorizes every local public agency to establish a nonemergency telephone system and would designate the digits "311" as the primary nonemergency telephone number within the system.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 15 (Polanco) Firearms.

Makes it a misdemeanor for any person in California to manufacture, import for sale, offer for sale, give, or lend any "unsafe handgun."

Signed by the Governor.

SB 23 (Perata) Firearms: assault weapons.

Adds a "generic" definition of assault weapons to the Assault Weapons Control Act of 1989; makes manufacturing, importing, selling, lending, or giving of a large-capacity magazine, i.e., any ammunition feeding device with a capacity to accept more than 10 rounds an alternate felony/misdemeanor.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 446 (Dunn) Sex offenders: registration.

Requires a current photograph to be forwarded to the Department of Justice prior to the release from custody of any person required to register as a convicted sex offender.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1102 (Murray) Peace officers: racial profiling training.

Prohibits law enforcement officers from engaging in racial profiling. It requires every law enforcement officer in the State to participate in racial profiling training, with the curriculum developed by the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training, in collaboration with a five-person panel.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1199 (Costa) Child protective services: reports.

Requires the State Board of Prison Terms and the State Department of Corrections to notify local law enforcement in a community where a parolee was convicted and where the parolee is to be released, when the parolee was convicted of a sex offense against a minor.

Signed by the Governor.

Education

AB 429 (Correa), AB 821 (Correa), AB 1933 (Strom-Martin), AB 2700 (Lempert), SB 1435 (Johnston) and SB 1505 (Burton) – Teacher retirement bill package that:

- Increases the State Teachers' Retirement System monthly allowance amounts payable to retired members and nonmember spouses, disabled members, and beneficiaries payable commencing on or before July 1, 2001, and provides additional supplemental increases to those benefits to preserve their purchasing power.
- Changes the period to be used for computing "final compensation" for State Teachers' Retirement System benefits to the highest compensation earnable by a member during a consecutive 12-month period.
- Establishes the Teachers' Health Benefits Fund which requires CalSTRS to pay the Medicare premiums of CalSTRS retirees who are not covered by Social Security and need to pay the premium to establish Medicare eligibility.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2060 (Steinberg) Federal tax credits: housing: teachers.

To create incentives to encourage people into the teaching profession, AB 2060 establishes the Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program to provide financial aid to teachers for home purchases.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2260 (Shelley) School safety.

Establishes the Healthy Schools Act of 2000. Requires each schoolsite to maintain records of all pesticides used at the site for four years. Requires school districts to annually provide to staff and parents a written notification of the pesticide products expected to be applied in the upcoming school year.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2879 (Jackson) Income Taxes: credit: teacher retention.

Authorizes a nonrefundable credit equal to \$250, \$500, \$1,000, and \$1,500 to teachers based on their years of teaching experience, to encourage teacher retention and compensate teachers for unreimbursed expenses related to professional development and classroom instruction.

Signed by the Governor.

ABX1 1 (Villaraigosa) California Peer Assistance and Review Program for Teachers.

Establishes the California Peer Assistance and Review Program for Teachers for the purpose of assisting veteran teachers in need of development in subject matter knowledge or teaching strategies.

Signed by the Governor.

ABX1 2 (Mazzoni) Education.

Establishes and provides funding for six Governor's initiatives in the areas of K-12 reading instruction and preparation of teachers and school principals. The bill appropriates a total of \$94 million from the General Fund in support of these programs.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 410 (Escutia) School finance: summer school.

Modifies the summer school and after school programs to ensure that remedial programs are available for every child needing the additional instruction.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1644 (Ortiz) Student financial aid: Ortiz-Pacheco-Poohigian-Vasconcellos Cal Grant Program.

Guarantees a Cal Grant award to every student who is financially and academically eligible to receive an award to attend a college or university, beginning in 2001-02.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1666 (Alarcon) Teachers: recruitment and incentives.

Provides \$119 million to be used to reduce the number of teachers on emergency credentials by implementing signing bonuses, improved working conditions, housing subsidies, and teacher compensation at the state's low-performing schools.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1688 (Polanco) Education.

Establishes the Governor's Merit Scholars Program to reward ninth, tenth and eleventh grade pupils for high test scores.

Signed by the Governor.

SBX1 1 (Alpert) Education accountability.

Establishes the Public School Performance Accountability Program that would apply to all schools, including charter schools, consisting of a state Academic Performance Index (API), an Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program (IIUSP), and a High Achieving/Improving Schools Program (HAISP).

Signed by the Governor.

SBX1 2 (O'Connell) Education accountability: high school exit examination.

Requires high school pupils beginning in 2004 to pass a high school exit exam in order to graduate.

Signed by the Governor.

Health

AB 12 (Davis) Health care coverage: second opinions.

Requires HMOs and health insurers to provide or authorize second medical opinions.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 26 (Migden) Domestic partners.

Establishes the definition for domestic partnerships and creates a statewide domestic partners through the Secretary of State's office. Specifies that domestic partnerships are limited to two adults of the same sex; opposite sex couples may apply when one or both adults are 62 years of age or older. Also authorizes state and local government employers to offer health care coverage and other benefits to domestic partners of qualified employees.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 39 (Hertzberg) Health care coverage: contraceptive drugs.

Establishes the Women's Contraception Equity Act, which requires health care service plan contracts to cover prescription contraceptive methods.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 55 (Migden) Health care coverage: independent medical review.

Provides that enrollees may seek an independent review whenever health care services have been denied, delayed, or otherwise limited by a plan or one of its contracting providers based on a finding that the service is not medically necessary or appropriate, and would not exclude Medi-Cal or Medicare beneficiaries from participation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 88 (Thomson) Health care coverage: mental illness.

Requires a health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy to provide coverage for the severe mental illnesses of a person of any age, and for the serious emotional disturbances of a child.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 285 (Corbett) Health care coverage: medical advice services.

Requires health insurers that provide telephone medical advice to patients to employ only health care providers licensed to provide that service, and requires that they be supervised by a California-licensed physician.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 394 (Kuehl) Health facilities: nursing staff.

Establishes staffing ratios for nurses in hospitals and limits the nursing-related duties that may be performed by unlicensed personnel.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 892 (Alquist) Health care service plans: hospice care.

Requires health care service plans to provide hospice care as a basic health care service.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2222 (Kuehl) Civil rights: disability.

Enacts the Prudence Kay Poppink Act. Clarifies the definitions of “mental disability,” “physical disability” and “medical condition” for the purposes of California’s civil rights laws, limits an employer’s ability to require medical or psychological examinations or make certain medical or disability-related inquiries; and requires an employer to engage in a good faith, interactive process to determine reasonable accommodations for a disabled employee or applicant.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2294 (Davis) Ephedrine group alkaloids: dietary supplements: sale, distribution, and labeling.

Prohibits the sale or distribution of any dietary supplement containing ephedrine group alkaloids unless the product and product label meet certain requirements.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2547 (Hertzberg) Health facilities.

Expands public access to information on health facilities by authorizing the Department of Health Services to post on the Internet licensing and certification information on all applicants for a health facility license.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2820 (Cardoza) Feminine hygiene products: study.

Requires the Department of Health Services to contract with the University of California for the preparation and submittal to the department of a study that determines the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in feminine hygiene products pose risks to the health of women who use the products and their children.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2876 (Aroner) Health and welfare programs.

Omnibus social services Budget trailer bill which makes changes to various programs. Of particular note:

- Establishes the Caregiver Training Initiative to recruit, train and retain health care providers such as certified nurse assistants and registered nurses.
- Allows for a state share of cost of wages up to \$7.50 per hour and individual health benefits up to 60 cents per hour for individual in-home supportive service (IHSS) providers.
- Allows for a state share of cost of up to a three percent wage increase for non-public authority IHSS individual providers.
- Increases rates for foster family agencies to provide a 10 percent wage pass-through and a \$100 clothing allowance for foster children.

Requires DSS to submit a community outreach and education plan to help families learn about and apply for the federal Food Stamp program and the California Food Assistance Program, which is extended for immigrants through 9/21/2001.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2877 (Thomson) Public health programs: Budget Act implementation.

Omnibus trailer bill for health services, implementing the policies in the 2000-2001 Budget Act. Among other things, it:

- Provides no cost Medi-Cal to aged, blind and disabled persons with incomes up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Eliminates the requirement that Medi-Cal beneficiaries submit quarterly income reports.
- Reduces by \$55 million the state administrative fee in the Disproportionate Share Hospital program.
- Establishes the Breast Cancer Treatment program for uninsured and underinsured high-risk women with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Establishes the Prostate Cancer Treatment program for high-risk men with incomes below 200 percent of the FPL.
- Extends for one year Healthy Families eligibility for legal immigrant children.
- Allows the Department of Mental Health to establish a system for the imposition of prompt and effective civil sanctions for long-term care facilities.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2878 (Wayne) Breast cancer: treatment.

Establishes the Breast Cancer Treatment program within the Department of Health Services for high-risk women with incomes up to 200% of the federal poverty level. Provides that breast cancer treatment shall include, but not be limited to, lumpectomy, mastectomy, chemotherapy, hormone therapy, radiotherapy, and reconstructive surgery.

Signed by the Governor.

ACR 184 (Hertzberg) Demonstration Projects under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Urges the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to apply for a demonstration project under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 5 (Rainey) Health care benefits: breast cancer services.

Prohibits the denial of enrollment or coverage to an individual solely due to a family history of breast cancer, or who has had one or more diagnostic procedures for breast disease but has not developed or been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 21 (Figueroa) Health care service plans: duty of care.

Provides that health plans shall be legally responsible to patients to ensure that health care providers, rather than the health plans, are in charge of patient care.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 59 (Perata) Health care coverage.

Requires health plans and health insurers to adopt and follow policies and procedures when determining whether to authorize or deny treatment including responding within five days when a patient's recovery is in jeopardy.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 87 (Escutia) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Sets forward requirements and procedures for providing uninterrupted health coverage through the Medi-Cal program and for reviewing Medi-Cal eligibility for beneficiaries when CalWORKs benefits have been terminated.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 97 (Burton) Health facilities.

Prohibits a health facility from discriminating against a patient or employee who presents a grievance or cooperates in any investigation against that facility.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 189 (Schiff) Health care coverage: grievances: independent medical review.

Establishes an independent review process for health insurance beneficiaries in the event they are denied care and are unsatisfied with the result of the insurer's internal grievance process.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 205 (Perata) Health coverage: cancer screening tests.

Requires that every health care service plan contract provide coverage for all generally medically accepted cancer screening tests.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 265 (Speier) Health care coverage: federally eligible defined individuals.

Conforms to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act of 1996, including requiring a health care service plan or disability insurer to issue their two most popular health care coverage products to federally eligible individuals.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1471 (Schiff) Health care liens.

Prohibits a health plan, insurer, medical group or independent practice association lien for recovery of money paid for health care services for an enrollee or insured from exceeding the amount actually paid for those health care services.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1828 (Speier) Dangerous drugs and devices.

Prohibits any person from prescribing, dispensing or furnishing prescription drugs on the Internet for delivery to any person in this state without a prior examination and medical indication thereof, and provides for penalties for violations of this bill of \$25,000 per occurrence. Requires the Franchise Tax Board to subtract the amount of any civil penalties or fines from a violator's tax refund or lottery winnings.

Signed by the Governor.

Privacy

AB 1897 (Davis) Identity theft: remedies.

Provides that a person who reasonably believes that he or she is the victim of identity theft has the right to file a police report to that effect and requires the agency to conduct an immediate investigation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1949 (Hertzberg) Identity theft: regional pilot projects.

Enacts the Identity Theft Victim's Protection Act of 2000, which, as a three-year pilot project, directs the Department of Justice to establish special Regional Identity Theft Units in designated regions that specialize in investigating and prosecuting identity theft and providing information to the public. These units include investigators with the necessary expertise to adequately confront this growing crisis and act as a clearinghouse of information on identity theft for law enforcement, victims, and the public, and will respond to the needs of victims. The department will disburse grants and funds of up to \$3 million annually for the creation of these units.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2462 (Wright) Personal identifying information: identity theft.

Establishes procedures for victims of identity theft to correct criminal records and to prevent credit information that resulted from the identity theft from being released.

Held in the Senate.

SB 19 (Figueroa) Medical records: confidentiality.

Makes it a wobbler for contractors of health care providers to intentionally share, sell or use confidential medical records for commercial purposes, regardless of whether the patient suffered any loss or injury.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 926 (Speier) Personal information: supermarkets.

Enacts the Supermarket Club Card Disclosure Act of 1999, prohibiting supermarkets from requesting or requiring a customer to provide a driver's license number or social security number to obtain a supermarket club card unless the card is also a check cashing card. Prohibits a club card issuer from selling or sharing personal identification information regarding cardholders, except for purposes of mailing supermarket club card information to cardholders.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1822 (Bowen) Employee computer records.

Prohibits an employer from monitoring employee electronic mail or other computer records without first advising the employee of the employer's workplace privacy and monitoring policy.

Vetoed by the Governor.

Resources

AB 18 (Villaraigosa) Bond: parks, water, and coastal protection act.

Enacts the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act) which authorizes, for acquisition, development, improvement, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, and protection of park, recreational, cultural, historical, fish and wildlife, lake, riparian, reservoir, river, and coastal resources the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$2.1 billion.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 538 (Wayne) Public beaches: bacteriological standards.

A follow-up to AB 411 (Wayne) which required the Department of Health Services Committee to adopt bacterial contamination standards for public beaches, to restrict access to beaches where the standards are violated and to close beaches where known untreated sewage has contaminated the water until it is demonstrated that there is no danger to the public. AB 538 takes the next step by requiring the development of protocols for use in investigations of storm drains that produce an excess of dangerous bacteria.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1584 (Machado) Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act; water resources.

Enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act which authorizes, for purposes of financing a safe drinking water, water quality, flood protection, and water reliability program, the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$1,765,500,000.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1946 (Wayne) Public beaches: survey.

Requires local health officers to submit a monthly survey to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) detailing information on beach postings and closures due to failure to meet bacteriological standards. Requires SWRCB to establish a specific format for the surveys, make the information available to the public monthly, and publish an annual statewide report.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2553 (Hertzberg) Recycling: education grants.

Requires the California Integrated Waste Management Board to establish a grant program and provide incentives for public schools to implement source reduction and recycling programs. Schools implementing such programs have reduced waste by 40 percent to 90 percent and saved significant disposal costs as well as provide students with hands-on education about the value of recycling and source reduction.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2800 (Shelley) Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act.

Establishes the Marine Managed Areas Consolidation and Improvement Act to eliminate the current complex, unorganized and burdensome array of 18 different marine protected area classifications and create a new uniform classification system, with a clearly defined mission statement, designation guidelines and goals.

Signed by the Governor.

HR 20 (Jackson)

Memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would direct the Secretary of the Interior to impose a permanent ban on offshore oil drilling off the coast of California, to include allowing the expiration of existing undeveloped leases for offshore oil drilling. Urges Congress to pass the Coastal States Protection Act.

Adopted.

HR 58 (Florez)

Requests the Secretary of the United States Department of Food and Agriculture to immediately declare that there is an emergency and make federal funds available to ensure that sufficient resources are available to arrest and eradicate the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter.

Adopted.

SB 1146 (Burton) Motor vehicles: pollution control devices.

Protects car owners by requiring the California Air Resources Board to adopt regulations to require automobile manufacturers to disclose information for the repair or manufacture of emissions-related motor vehicle parts to any person engaged in the business of servicing or repairing motor vehicles or engaged in the manufacture or remanufacture of emissions-related motor vehicle parts. Automakers have refused to disclose such information, which had the effect of requiring such repairs to be done by dealers.

Signed by the Governor.

Seniors

AB 59 (Cedillo) Elder or dependent adults: abuse: protective orders.

Expands the rights of elder and dependent adults who have suffered abuse at the hands of unrelated roommates, caregivers or others, to seek restraining and protective orders.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1731 (Shelley) Long-term health care facilities.

Enacts a major reform package for skilled nursing facilities and intermediate care facilities.

Creates provisional licenses, and authorizes temporary managers and court-appointed receivers.

Expands citations and penalties. Increases information relating to the State Ombudsman, complaints and resident appeals, and nursing home inspections.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2531 (Scott) Health care facilities.

Establishes training and certification standards for direct care staff in long-term care facilities for developmentally disabled persons. Ensures that facilities are able to attract and retain a qualified direct care workforce, which provides fundamental care services directed at the safety, comfort, personal hygiene, and protection of residents, from assistance with daily living activities to more advanced care giving, to deal with the serious lack of qualified individuals available to work in such facilities.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 870 (Vasconcellos) Long-term care insurance.

Makes comprehensive, substantive changes to the long-term care insurance law that would affect individual and group policy benefits, changes requirements for eligibility, and establishes and modifies marketing and disclosure requirements, including, policies and certificates that limit benefits of institutional care to be identified as “Nursing Facility and Residential Care Facility Only” coverage, and requiring that a long-term care policy cover care in a residential care facility.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 898 (Dunn) Long-term care renewal provisions.

Requires long-term care insurance premiums and certain policy conditions to be guaranteed renewable or non-cancelable, and requires prior approval of the Department of Insurance before the insurance can be offered or the rate increased.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2077 (Ortiz) Continuing care contracts: retirement communities: elderly.

Makes clear delineation between continuing care retirement communities and “look alike” facilities and establishes guidelines for those facilities which do not fall within the current statutes. Ensures that when an elderly individual makes a purchase for care they do in fact receive the care they expect in the future.

Signed by the Governor.

Working Families

AB 60 (Knox) Employment: overtime.

Enacts the Eight-Hour-Day Restoration and Workplace Flexibility Act of 1999, establishing a framework for the payment of daily overtime compensation: time and one-half pay after eight hours of daily work; personal time off for a personal obligation of an employee which may be made up during a workweek without payment of overtime compensation within certain limits; and, the adoption through an employee election of an alternative work week schedule.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 109 (Knox) Employment: sick leave.

Requires an employer who provides sick leave for employees to permit an employee to use the sick leave to attend to the illness of a child, parent, or spouse of the employee. Provides employees the option to use sick leave for unexpected, short-term situations that may not constitute a “serious” health condition, and not be required to take more than needed or risk losing their jobs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 480 (Ducheny) Personal income tax.

Allows a refundable credit for the costs of employment-related child and dependent care expenses that are necessary for gainful employment, incurred by people who maintain a household in California during the taxable year.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 633 (Steinberg) Labor: garment manufacturing.

Streamlines the enforcement procedures of wage and hour abuses in the garment industry. Designed to stem a large and growing underground economy of garment industry employers who are chronic violators of wage and hour, safety, and tax laws. Makes all manufacturers liable for the guaranteed wages, including civil penalties, of the entity with whom they have contracted to make garments.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1001 (Villaraigosa) Fair employment and housing.

Prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the Fair Employment and Housing Act. Also codifies case law which prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Affords employment and housing protection to individuals regardless of sexual orientation, defined as “heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality.”

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1127 (Steinberg) Employee safety: violations.

Increases the civil and criminal penalties for violations of statutes and regulations regarding worker safety. Increased penalties include increasing the penalty for repeated violations or failure to comply to up to one year in county jail and/or a \$15,000 fine.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1338 (Reyes) Farm labor contractors: licenses.

Increases farm labor contractor wage surety bonds and license fees; provides continuing education for farm labor contractors; and enhances examination and enforcement procedures.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1395 (Correa) Public works: prevailing wages.

Requires the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to protect the confidentiality of any employee who reports a violation regarding public works projects. AB 1395 will protect employees making prevailing wage complaints from employer retaliation. Current law protects the confidentiality of employees who file complaints in other labor enforcement areas and AB 1395 provides that prevailing wage complaints should be treated no differently.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1652 (Steinberg) Labor: violations.

Improves the enforcement procedures of wage and hour laws under the Labor Commissioner. This is a companion bill to SB 633, and both are aimed at serious repeat violators of wage and safety laws met to protect their employees.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1856 (Kuehl) Harassment: liability of employees.

Expressly provides that employees of any entity covered by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act are personally liable for their acts of harassment, regardless of whether their employer knows or should have known of the conduct and fails to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2357 (Honda) Victims of Domestic Violence Employment Leave Act.

Prohibits employers from discharging or discriminating against any employee who takes time off work to receive social services if they are victims of and the services are related to domestic violence.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2862 (Romero) Farm labor contractors.

Establishes a farm labor contractor's verification unit and a farm labor contractors' enforcement unit at the Department of Industrial Relations by 7/1/2001. Increases penalties for those farm labor contractors and growers who fail to pay wages to farmworkers.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 26 (Escutia) Employment: age discrimination.

Protects workers 40 and over by rejecting a California appellate court case, Marks v. Lorel, and declaring that the Fair Employment and Housing Act age discrimination law contemplates disparate impact cases as well as individual disparate treatment cases, underscoring California's continuing commitment to provide its workers the same legal protections to fight age discrimination as are available to combat race, sex and other forms of discrimination. Further declares that salary considerations may not be a permissible standard for employment termination decisions if such a basis would disparately affect older workers.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 320 (Solis) Workers' compensation: administration and benefits.

Increases workers' compensation benefits by about 2.5% per year, over a six-year period.

Provides that a totally dependent widow or widower will receive death benefits until death of the widow or widower, notwithstanding the maximum limitation. Creates a new position of Court Administrator within the Division of Workers' Compensation to oversee the workers' compensation adjudicatory process.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 546 (Solis) Unemployment compensation.

Increases weekly Unemployment Insurance benefits that have not increased since 1989 due to a series of gubernatorial vetoes.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 656 (Solis) Unemployment disability.

Increases the maximum disability benefit from \$336 to \$490 per week, making SDI benefits equal to weekly benefits for workers' compensation temporary disability (WCTD) and indexing the SDI levels to future WCTD increases.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 996 (Johnston) Workers' compensation: administration and benefits.

Increases workers' compensation benefits and makes changes in the administration of the workers' compensation system including: allowing a totally dependent widow/widower to receive death benefits until their death; expanding alternative dispute resolution to permit arbitration of any dispute; and expanding the purposes to which Fraud Assessment Fund fees can be used, allowing investigation and prosecution of uninsured employers.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1327 (Escutia) Employees: inspection of personnel records by employees.

Expands the law governing the inspection of personnel records by employees to include allowing public and private employees to place materials in their personnel files, and requiring private employers to permit employees to inspect their personnel files with no loss of compensation.

Signed by the Governor.

Aging and Long-Term Care

Chair: Assemblymember Elaine Alquist

The Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care is dedicated to addressing the concerns of California's aging community, from review of residential care facilities, to nursing home care, to long-term care insurance premium tax deductions. The review of policies critical to improving the quality of life for seniors in California is the primary focus of this committee and its work over the last two years.

Although the system of care established for California's seniors remains fragmented we have moved closer to closing the gap on services for seniors. Providing an incentive for stay at home care, as opposed to nursing home care, is one of the great challenges the committee will be facing in the coming session. Recognizing that an improved quality of life is really the only goal of the committee, we look forward to working with all the dedicated individuals who see the long term importance of our work.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 27 (Nakano) Long-term care infrastructure blueprint.

Requires the California Health and Human Services Agency to develop an infrastructure blueprint for long-term care. This bill is an important step in using information technology to diminish the fragmentation and lack of coordination of services in long-term care programs for the elderly and chronically disabled.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 59 (Cedillo) Elder or dependent adults: abuse: protective orders.

Expands the rights of elder and dependent adults who have suffered abuse to seek restraining orders from unrelated roommates, caregivers or others.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 452 (Mazzoni) Long-term care programs.

Requires by January 1, 2007, an establishment of a Long-term Care (LTC) Council within the California Health and Human Services Agency as an interdepartmental, interagency council to, among other things, coordinate long-term care policy development and program operations and to develop a strategic plan for long-term care policy. The purpose of this bill is to overcome much of the fragmentation of state-administered LTC programs and to provide consumer access to a seamless continuum of long term care services.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1160 (Shelley) Long-term health care facilities: skilled nursing facilities.

Establishes major nursing home reform and goals for direct care staffing in skilled nursing facilities (SNFs). Revises the calculation for determining nursing hours in SNFs and intermediate care facilities, requires disclosure of licensee information and requires a report on SNF reimbursement rates to be submitted to the Legislature.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1499 (Lowenthal) Elder and dependent abuse reporting: training.

Requires staff training to recognize and report abuse in nursing homes and nonmedical community care facilities.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1731 (Shelley) Long-term health care facilities.

Enacts an omnibus measure to protect patients and families from abusive practices of long-term care facilities, i.e. skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) or intermediate care facilities (ICFs). Among other things, this bill:

- requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to recommend an increase in minimum nursing hours to ensure the quality of patient care; requires DHS to conduct more inspections of long-term care facilities;
- requires DHS to develop a method to provide information to the public when a complaint against a facility is substantiated and a citation is issued;
- establishes a Quality Awards Program to identify exemplary facilities;
- prohibits the transfer of patients to another facility simply because the patient's method of payment changes from private pay to Medi-Cal or Medicare; and,
- expands and increases the citations that may be imposed on facilities that fail to meet state standards.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1753 (Romero) Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

Establishes training and disclosure requirements for any residential care facility for the elderly that advertises or promotes special care for persons with dementia. Without this specialized training, staff members lack the ability to address the unique needs of patients suffering from dementia.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1820 (Wright) Geriatric medicine.

Establishes the Geriatric Medical Training Act of 2000. Places certain licensing requirements on physicians and the Medical Board of California in an effort to increase the geriatric competency of California's physicians. Requires sufficient coursework and training in the field of geriatrics to ensure that every general internist and family physician has the requisite knowledge and skills to competently treat the elderly population by 2010.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2531 (Scott) Health care facilities.

Establishes training and certification standards for direct care staff in long-term care facilities for developmentally disabled persons. Ensures that facilities are able to attract and retain a qualified direct care workforce.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2834 (Alquist) Geriatric specialist training.

Requires the Office of Statewide Health Planning and Development to administer grants to California postsecondary educational institutions that establish fee-waiver programs for students who enroll in a program leading to a bachelor of science or a masters degree in gerontology.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 910 (Vasconcellos) Aging: strategic planning.

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a comprehensive statewide strategic plan to address the impending demographic, economic and social changes triggered by California's aging society.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2077 (Ortiz) Continuing care contracts: retirement communities: elderly.

Makes clear delineation between continuing care retirement communities and "look alike" facilities and establishes guidelines for those facilities which do not fall within the current statutes. Ensures that when an elderly individual makes a purchase for care they do receive the care they expect in the future.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2180 (Committee on Health and Human Services) Adult day health care: licensing.

Strengthens the role of the California Department of Aging in regulating adult day health care centers.

Signed by the Governor.

Agriculture

Chair: Assemblymember Dean Florez

Chairman Florez has worked hard to develop consensus on bills that have come before the committee. Several informational hearings occurred on issues such as farm labor contractors and grape shipment protocols due to Glassy Winged Sharpshooters. These are important issues to the state and our agricultural industry. The committee always supported the additional funding of preventative measures regarding exotic and high-risk pests exclusion activities.

Of the many issues dealing with agriculture over the past two years, the major policy debates focused on increasing the penalties for violations of pesticide regulations, rules for the marketing or brokering of agricultural commodities, and the dealing with relevant funding to protect our state from infestation by exotic or high-risk pests. These issues are very important, not only to the agricultural industry, but to the state's general economy. The agricultural segment of our economy provides nearly \$27 billion to the state's economy, and 1 in 10 jobs are dependent on agriculture.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 593 (Strom-Martin) Certified farmers' markets.

Protects the integrity of farmers' markets and assures consumers that the high quality of fresh fruits, vegetables and nuts they have come to expect will be preserved by strengthening the certification program for farmers' markets and producers.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1228 (Committee on Agriculture) Agriculture: plant and animal pest control.

Authorizes California Department of Food and Agriculture to develop work plans and disburse funds to reimburse counties for high-risk pest exclusion and noxious weed programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1229 (Committee on Agriculture) Agricultural land conservation: districts.

Allows additional public entities (resource conservation districts, regional parks, open space districts) to apply for grants and hold easements under the California Farmland Conservancy Program.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1232 (Committee on Agriculture) Pierce Disease research.

Establishes criteria for funding research to eradicate Pierce Disease, a bacterial infection that is lethal to grapevines. Also authorizes the Secretary of the California Department of Food and Agriculture to appoint a Pierce Disease Advisory Task Force.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1258 (Strom-Martin) Public health: agricultural homestay establishments.

Provides for the regulation of agricultural homestays, in which visitors spend several days on a farm, observing or taking part in farm-related activities and exploring the surrounding countryside and towns. Expands the definition of "restricted food service transient occupancy establishment" to include an agricultural homestay.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1470 (Cardoza) Food Banks.

Appropriates \$575,000 from the General Fund to the State Controller for allocation to the Emergency Food Assistance Program (EFAP). Specifies that \$300,000 of these funds are to be used to accept and distribute fresh and canned produce purchased by the United States Department of Agriculture with federal funds to mitigate the impacts of the Tri-Valley Growers Association bankruptcy. Directs the remaining \$27,500 to EFAP for accepting, transporting and distributing other U.S. Department of Agriculture commodities and donated food.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1474 (Cardoza) Vehicles: license fees and taxes: highway access limits: Exception.

Permits, until January 1, 2002, the use of licensed livestock carriers on sections of Highway 101 to pick up and haul animals to a terminal point. Exempts federally recognized Indian tribes from paying any fees, except the vehicle registration fee, on vehicles used within the tribes' limits.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1548 (Cardoza) Environmental health: food safety.

Requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to inspect new and registered food processing facilities in a targeted manner, adjusting scope, depth, and frequency based on statewide public health risk. Requires, beginning January 1, 2001, DHS to conduct annual inspections of all registered food processing facilities, allows DHS to waive the requirement for certain facilities based on public health risk assessment, and conduct re-inspections of facilities as necessary. Clarifies the onus on the state to provide regular and thorough inspections, per the Sherman Act, and increases resources to enable DHS to meet these obligations.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1571 (Villaraigosa) Carl Moyer Memorial Air Standards Attainment Program.

Creates the Carl Moyer Memorial Air Standards Attainment Program that provides grants to farmers, truckers and others to replace or retrofit older diesel engines with clean-burning units.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1645 (Committee on Agriculture) Agricultural education.

Requires the Department of Education, in consultation with the State Agricultural Advisory Committee, to establish a non-mandatory comprehensive agricultural education program for prekindergarten, kindergarten, and grades 1-12.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1771 (Committee on Agriculture) Agricultural pest control.

Extends indefinitely the \$5.5 million annual allocation of funds for high-risk pest exclusion activities.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1790 (Wiggins) Tax relief: vineyards: Pierce's Disease.

Allows grapevines removed specifically due to phylloxera infestation or Pierce's Disease to be replaced with new grapevines not necessarily equivalent to the grapevines being replaced and still qualify for the property tax relief.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2111 (Campbell) Red imported fire ants.

Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to the State Department of Food and Agriculture (DFA) for control and eradication of infestations of Red Imported Fire Ants. Requires DFA to report to the Legislature by June 30, 2001, of its progress in controlling and eradicating these infestations and outlining its expenditure program.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2306 (Florez) Farmworker programs.

Requires the State Department of Health Services to review the use of public health programs by agricultural workers and develop an implementation plan to streamline service delivery. Creates the Joe Serna Farmworker Family Wellness Act to integrate housing, health and other family services for agricultural workers. Renames the "Farmworker Housing Grant Program" as the "Joe Serna, Jr., Farmworker Housing Grant Program".

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2510 (Thomson) Field crop products: civil liability.

Makes any person liable who willfully and knowingly destroys any field crop that is subject to testing or product development conducted under contract with a state institution of higher education or other federal, state, or local government agency. The maximum liable amount shall be twice the actual value of the damages involving research, testing, and crop development costs directly related to the crop that has been damaged or destroyed.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2707 (Florez) Farm labor contractors.

Requires that the Labor Commissioner's Fresno office has suitable facilities and personnel for the licensing of farm labor contractors and for the processing of complaints against them.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2710 (House) Dairy products: unlawful processing.

Prohibits any milk producer to sell or give away any milk that could be used to produce manufactured dairy products intended for resale by unlicensed processors. Directs both the State Department of Food and Agriculture and the State Department of Health Services to promptly and effectively enforce actions against violators. Makes it a crime to use unauthorized business labels for any dairy product.

Vetoed by the Governor.

HR 58 (Florez) Relative to the infestation by the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter.

Requests the Secretary of the United States Department of Food and Agriculture to immediately declare that there is an emergency and make federal funds available to ensure that sufficient resources are available to arrest and eradicate the Glassy Winged Sharpshooter.

Adopted.

SB 671 (Chesbro) Pierce's Disease.

Creates the Pierce's Disease Management Account within the Food and Agriculture Fund and appropriates \$6,900,000 from the General Fund to this account for the purpose of research and other efforts to combat Pierce's Disease.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1740 (Leslie) Noxious weed management.

Provides \$5 million to combat noxious weeds that threaten California's crops. Invasive terrestrial and aquatic weeds are one of the biggest threats facing agriculture and the environment.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2065 (Costa) Agriculture.

Creates the Biotechnology Task Force (BTF) to report, by January 1, 2002, to the Legislature and the Governor on issues related to the benefits and safety of the use of biotechnology in agricultural and food production, and to present the BTF's findings and recommendations.

Signed by the Governor.

Banking and Finance

Chair: Assemblymember Lou Papan

During the 1999-2000 legislative session, under the leadership of Chairman Lou Papan, the Assembly Committee on Banking and Finance passed significant legislation to extend consumer protections. These bills included imposing additional disclosure requirements that money transmitters must provide to customers; requiring credit card issuers to provide consumers information regarding the time and total cost to pay off the balance of a credit card; and, prohibiting a seller of annuity contracts or insurance contracts from disclosing, for credit application purposes, information regarding a customer's health, medical or genetic history to any financial institution or third party.

In order to keep pace with current technology, the committee expanded escrow transactions to include Internet escrow transactions and revised the Escrow Law to include Internet escrow companies. The committee also passed legislation that would guarantee loans for small businesses and for housing that benefits low-income individuals.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 Session.

AB 143 (Calderon) Transmission of money abroad: fees and commissions.

Imposes additional disclosure requirements that money transmitters must provide to customers to include the amount of commissions and fees in U.S. dollars and the rate of exchange for each transaction. Requires licensees to maintain a toll-free number providing the rates of exchange offered by the licensee.

Held in the Senate.

AB 333 (Papan) Internet escrow transactions.

Expands escrow transactions to include Internet escrow transactions, allows for Internet payment alternatives, provides for electronic transfers of funds, authorizes Internet escrow agents to provide records to the Department of Corporations electronically and specifies staffing requirements for Internet escrow agencies.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 583 (Papan) Internet escrow agents.

Revises the Escrow Law to include Internet escrow companies. Extends consumer protections and state regulation to Internet escrow companies commonly utilized by consumers for personal property exchanges such as those performed via various Internet auction sites.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1816 (Wayne) Simulated checks.

Completely prohibits the use of simulated checks. Deletes the language in current law that allows the use of simulated checks if "THIS IS NOT A CHECK" is printed diagonally across the face of the check.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1963 (Hertzberg) Credit cards.

Requires credit card issuers to provide with each billing statement sample calculations indicating the months and total cost to pay off the entire balance due on an open-end credit card account.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2359 (Keeley) Community Investment Act.

Establishes the Community Development Investment Guarantee Fund and authorizes the Treasurer to guarantee loans for small businesses and housing that benefits low-income individuals.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2420 (Firebaugh) Money transmitters: transmission of money abroad.

Requires money transmission services to disclose exchange rates and other information to consumers. Specifically requires that the total amount of the fees paid and the specific amount of currency converted for each transmission be disclosed to the consumer. Also requires that signs be posted in the exchange office that clearly state the amount that will be transferred in the foreign currency if the consumer sends X amount of dollars.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2708 (Wesson) State deposits.

Requires that in order to be eligible to receive local agency or state agency money, a bank or other financial institution shall have received an overall rating of not less than "satisfactory" in its most recent evaluation of its record of meeting the credit needs of California's communities, including low- and moderate-income neighborhoods.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2797 (Papan) Confidentiality of health, medical, or genetic information.

Prohibits an underwriter or seller of annuity contracts or insurance policies from disclosing information concerning a customer's health, medical, or genetic history to any financial institution or third party for credit purposes.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2805 (Papan) Financial institutions.

Adds definition of a small bank and requires the California Research Bureau to report and study on the investment of public funds within and without California. Permits securitization of small business loans and allows letters of credit as permissible collateral for public funds deposit.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 313 (Figueroa) Debit cards: cardholder liability.

Establishes the conditions for a debit cardholder's liability for unauthorized use and limits that liability to a maximum of \$50 in most cases.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1607 (Figueroa) Consumer credit reporting agencies.

Requires a credit-reporting agency, to provide upon request, the consumer's most recent credit score. Permits a consumer credit reporting agency to charge a "reasonable" fee (not to exceed \$8) for providing credit score information.

Signed by the Governor.

Budget

Assembly Speaker Robert M. Hertzberg issued the following statement upon the signing of the 2000-2001 Budget:

Californians have an absolute right to expect a Budget on time – and with the Governor's signature today, that job is done. I am proud of the Assembly's work on this year's Budget, which focused on the needs of California's working families – parents trying to pay for child care, commuters trying to get to and from work, and low-income mothers and fathers trying to get health care coverage for their children. I am also proud that we worked to address these needs in a fiscally responsible way, setting aside a substantial reserve and returning a sizeable share of the state's surplus to taxpayers. The members of our house should take pride in their work – and in the results they have achieved for California.

TAX RELIEF

Acceleration of Vehicle License Fee Reduction

The budget accelerates by two years a cumulative reduction of 67.5 percent in the Vehicle License Fee (VLF).

Background

The VLF is an annual fee on the ownership of registered vehicles in California, levied in place of taxing vehicles as personal property. The revenues are distributed to cities and counties. As part of the 1998-99 Budget, the VLF was cut by 25 percent, with the potential of additional reductions in future years if specific revenue levels (or "triggers") were reached. Under the 1998 law, the first trigger would have resulted in a cumulative 35 percent reduction, beginning in 2001. The maximum reduction possible under that agreement would have lowered the VLF by a cumulative 67.5 percent, beginning in 2003. As part of last year's budget, the reduction was increased to 35 percent for calendar year 2000 only.

In addition, the 1998 law provided that for any year in which additional non-VLF tax relief, totaling more than \$100 million, was passed by the Legislature, the level of VLF tax relief would be reduced on a dollar-for-dollar basis in order to maintain the same overall level of tax relief. Under the 1998 agreement, cities and counties continue to receive the same amount of revenues as under prior law, with the reduced VLF amounts backfilled with General Fund dollars. The amount of the backfill in 1999-00 was \$1.4 billion.

The New VLF Provisions

The 2000-01 budget package accelerates from calendar year 2003 to 2001 a 67.5 percent cumulative reduction, and eliminates the VLF interaction with non-VLF tax relief.

The first provision will have a fiscal effect of \$887 million in the budget year, \$1.4 billion in 2001-02, and \$553 million in 2002-03. (The cost in 2001-02 to reimburse local government

reflects a full fiscal-year impact, while the costs in both 2000-01 and 2002-03 reflect only half-year impacts.)

The latter provision specifies that the 67.5 percent reduction level will not be reduced as a result of the passage of other non-VLF tax relief. Absent this provision, VLF tax relief would have been \$116 million less in 2001-02, and increasing amounts thereafter, to account for non-VLF tax relief passed in 1999 and early 2000.

The following table compares the maximum VLF rate reduction percentages under the original law with that under the new law.

Comparison of Vehicle License Fee Reduction Percentages			
	Calendar Year		
	2001	2002	2003 ^a
Maximum possible reduction under 1998 law	35.0%	46.5%	67.5%
2000-01 budget reductions	67.5	67.5	67.5
^a Rates apply to future years also.			

OTHER TAX REDUCTIONS

Tax Credit for Credentialed Teachers

The budget calls for credentialed teachers in K-12 public and private schools to receive tax credits linked to their years of teaching experience. The tax credit will be \$250 for those with 4 to 6 years of experience, \$500 for those with 6 to 11 years experience, \$1,000 for those with 11 to 19 years of experience, and \$1,500 for those with 20 or more years of experience. The credit is limited to 50 percent of tax liabilities associated with teaching-related income and will result in estimated revenue losses of \$218 million in 2000-01, \$188 million in 2001-02, and \$202 million in 2002-03.

Child Care Credit

Additionally, the budget provides for a refundable tax credit for child care expenses. The credit will be 63 percent of the similar federal child care credit for those earning \$40,000 or less, 53 percent for those earning between \$40,000 and \$70,000, and 42 percent for those earning between \$70,000, and \$100,000. Taxpayers earning in excess of \$100,000 are not eligible for the credit. This program will result in a revenue loss of \$195 million in 2000-01 and similar losses annually.

Senior Citizens' Property Tax Assistance

Two programs currently provide property tax assistance to low-income homeowners and renters who are either senior citizens (age 62 and older), disabled, or blind. For homeowners, the tax assistance is provided in the form of a partial reimbursement of property taxes paid; for renters, the amount of assistance is based on an estimate of the property tax paid by the renter. For both programs, eligibility is limited to those with incomes of less than \$34,000, and the amount of assistance is determined by the claimant's income level. The programs will spend an additional \$154 million in 2000-01, on a one-time basis, to increase benefits by 150 percent. The budget does not change the programs' eligibility requirements.

Long-Term Care Credit

The budget agreement also includes a tax credit for taxpayers who provide health care to qualified individuals during tax years 2000 through 2004. The credit is equal to \$500 for each individual for whom the taxpayer is a qualified caregiver, and is limited to taxpayers whose annual income is less than \$100,000. Generally, the credit is available to those who provide care for the elderly or certain other individuals who are unable to perform various activities associated with daily living. The credit is expected to cost \$43 million in 2000-01 and similar amounts thereafter.

Business-Related Provisions

The budget contains an expansion of two current tax programs to encourage in business investments and related activities. Currently, a tax credit of 12 percent is allowed for increased qualified research and development expenses. The budget increases the available credit to 15 percent of qualified expenses and also increases the amount of the alternative credit that may be claimed. Additionally, under current law, 50 percent of net operating losses (NOLs) may be carried forward for up to five years, to reduce taxable income. Under this year's package, the carry-over period is extended to 10 years, and the percentage that may be carried over will increase at regular increments until it reaches 65 percent in 2004.

There is also a new state sales tax exemption for qualified investments specifically designed to assist rural counties with high unemployment rates, relative to the rest of the state. Together, these tax reductions will result in an estimated revenue reduction of \$26 million in 2000-01, and increasing amounts thereafter.

Other Tax Provisions

The budget agreement also extends to graduate education expenses the income exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance that was formerly available only for undergraduate education expenses. Finally, the tax package allows a tax credit of 55 percent of the value of qualified property donated to the state, local governments, or designated nonprofit corporations for the protection of wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural lands.

K-12 EDUCATION

The 2000-01 Budget significantly increases investments in public education and helps prepare our children for employment by:

- Raising the K-12 per-pupil funding level in California by 11 percent.
- Increasing K-12 funding by \$4.5 billion over last year's budget.
- Providing an unprecedented increase of \$1.84 billion in ongoing discretionary funds.
- Providing \$245 million to school districts in one-time current year funds for technology-related purposes, including staff development and linkages to the Internet.
- Reducing from \$730 million to \$350 million funds for performance awards for schools that improve students' test scores.
- Providing \$55 million to increase beginning teacher salaries to \$34,000 statewide.
- Providing \$245 million for school safety, deferred maintenance, technology and facility improvements.
- Providing \$180 million for instructional materials, computers, library materials and tutoring services.

HEALTH

The 2000-01 Budget makes great strides toward improving access to quality health care for low-income Californians, ensuring that children have access to health and dental care, and providing needed funds for research into diseases that kill or disable too many Californians.

Specifically:

- The Governor reduced from over \$1 billion to \$940 million in state or federal funds the amount approved by the Legislature to increase reimbursement rates for physicians serving Medi-Cal patients.
- The budget provides \$34.3 million in state and federal funds for Medi-Cal/Healthy Families outreach, a net increase of \$11.9 million over current-year spending.
- The budget provides approximately \$500 million to enroll 511,000 children, or 80 percent of the total eligible population.

HIGHER EDUCATION

Overall funding for higher education increases by approximately \$1.5 billion, or 20.7 percent over the 1999-2000 Budget. The Governor:

- Reduced from \$503.9 million to \$486 million the increase in funding that the Legislature had approved for the University of California.
- Reduced from \$285.4 million to \$279 million the increase in funding that the Legislature had approved for California State University.
- Reduced from \$686 million to \$497 million the increase in funding that the Legislature had approved for the California Community Colleges.

HOUSING

The 2000-01 Budget proposal squarely confronts the serious affordable housing shortage we are presently facing in almost every region of California. Our long-term goal is to ensure that every California working family has adequate and affordable housing available to them in communities close to their work, their schools and their retail areas. Specifically:

- The Governor reduced from \$258 million to \$188 million the funding approved by the Legislature for multifamily housing to develop affordable housing in high cost housing areas.
- The budget provides \$46.5 million to provide homeownership and rental housing assistance to farmworkers.
- The Governor reduced from \$100 million to \$50 million the funding approved by the Legislature for down-payment and homeownership assistance for low- and moderate-income families.
- The budget provides \$5 million for interregional planning grants for local governments and \$5 million to ensure homes are safe.
- The budget provides \$110 million to give local agencies incentives for the development of housing near employment.
- The budget provides \$25 million for the Downtown Rebound program for loans for the development of in-fill housing.

RESOURCES & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

After 16 years of neglect, the Legislature and the people of the State of California have determined that it is time to reinvest in our natural resources, to ensure that all our families have access to parks and wildlife habitat, that our children have clean air to breath and clean water to drink, that our rivers and streams once again run clear, that our forests are protected and that our coastline is free of toxic contamination that potentially kill off our fisheries and our tourism industry. This budget includes:

- \$1.2 billion in Park Bond-related projects from the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000.
- \$763 million from the Water Bond for a variety of projects in Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection and Flood Protection Bond Act of 2000.

TRANSPORTATION

Next to the critical job we must do to improve our schools, a job that we have taken a large bite out of this year, one of the most important issues that must be addressed to ensure California's continuing economic leadership through the new century, is to repair, rebuild, replace and construct the transportation system we need to move our people and materials quickly. This budget makes a major commitment to that job, specifically it provides:

- A \$1.4 billion set-aside for local streets and roads, capital projects, and transit..
- \$10 million General Fund money to the Department of Boating and Waterways for Beach Restoration from erosion.
- \$2 billion in new General Fund allocations for the Governor's Congestion Relief plan.

Consumer Protection, Governmental Efficiency and Economic Development

Chair: Assemblymember Susan Davis

The main purpose of the Committee on Consumer Protection is to promote state and local economic development, advocate for the interests of consumers, encourage the development and expansion of technology, strengthen small businesses, and oversee state boards and commissions.

Major policy issues addressed by the Committee on Consumer Protection this legislative session include expanding of the lemon law, strengthening small business development, building technology and capital infrastructure, improving the Contractors' State License Board's response to consumer concerns, and reforming public contracting.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 574 (Hertzberg) Public contracts: responsible bidder.

Defines the term "responsible bidder" for public contracts, authorizes public entities to require prospective bidders to complete questionnaires, and requires the State Department of Industrial Relations to develop model guidelines for rating bidders.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 585 (Floyd) Driver's license: renewal: mail.

Provides relief to motorists who send in their driver's license renewal forms and fees on time but are sanctioned by law enforcement officers during the period after the licenses have expired and before the arrival of renewed licenses from the Department of Motor Vehicles.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 705 (Aroner) Transport escort services: registration.

Imposes certain requirements on a "transport escort service" engaged in the business of transporting youth privately to a residential facility or institution located outside the state, including registration in the Department of Social Services' Trustline Registry for child care providers. Creates a civil action against the transport service agency by an aggrieved minor and makes violation of the registration requirement a misdemeanor.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 958 (Scott) Transit design-build contracts.

Authorizes transit districts to enter into design-build contracts in which a single contractor or entity would be responsible for both the design and construction phases of a project. Establishes extensive qualifying, procedural and performance requirements and criteria governing the use of the design-build authority.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1079 (Robert Pacheco) Immigration consultants.

Expands regulation of immigration consultants by doubling and making permanent the state bonding requirement, adding penalty provisions, and reinstating reporting requirements.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1290 (Davis) Warranties: motor vehicle manufacturers.

Expands the period of time within which a new motor vehicle may be determined to be a lemon to 18 months or 18,000 miles, whichever occurs first.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1464 (Florez) Rural development.

Establishes the California Rural Development Council for the purpose of improving the quality of life for rural Californians. The Council will be a 21-member appointed board and seek entrance into the federal National Rural Partnership Program administered by the U.S.

Department of Agriculture.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1473 (Hertzberg) California Infrastructure Planning Act.

Requires the Governor, beginning on or after January 1, 2002, to submit annually a five-year infrastructure plan to the Legislature that includes proposed capital improvement projects and their proposed funding sources.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1849 (Wiggins) Contractors' State License Board.

Establishes a fraud investigation unit within the Contractors State Licensing Board to conduct criminal and administrative investigations involving the contracting industry. Authorization sunsets in January 2006.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1870 (Davis) Small business funding.

Clarifies the statutory definition of an "incubator" to reflect regional economic development efforts and to maximize the use of state resources by providing incentives for incubators that match state grant funding.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2099 (Migden) State infrastructure.

Establishes the State Infrastructure Investment Account and requires the Controller to transfer one percent of General Fund revenues to the Account annually. Funds in the account shall be used for acquisition, construction, rehabilitation, modernization, or renovation.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2359 (Keeley) Community Investment Act.

Establishes the Community Development Investment Guarantee Fund and authorizes the Treasurer to guarantee loans for small businesses and housing that benefits low-income individuals.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2370 (Honda) Contractors: criminal history checks.

Allows the Contractors' State License Board to deny certification as a home improvement contractor to applicants who have been convicted of crimes related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of contractors. Requires contractors and home improvement salespersons to submit fingerprints to the Department of Justice prior to certification or registration.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2494 (Steinberg) State offices: location.

Requires General Services, in selecting locations for newly constructed or leased office buildings, to give consideration to sites that are within mixed-use or commercial districts and that support transit service, have pedestrian access to retail and other services, are located within areas in need of economic revitalization, and are near affordable housing.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2704 (Cunneen) Unsolicited electronic mail advertising.

Authorizes an electronic mail service provider to register with the Attorney General to certify that it has a policy against unsolicited electronic mail advertising and a prohibition against the use of its equipment to do so. Provides that an electronic mail service provider whose policy against unsolicited advertising is violated may bring an action to recover actual monetary loss or liquidated damages from \$50 to \$25,000 per day, with attorney's fees awarded to the prevailing party. Requires the Attorney General to keep and maintain a registry of providers and to make it available.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2725 (Wesson) Advertising a going-out-of-business sale.

Regulates the advertising for, and the conduct of, "going out of business" sales by limiting the duration of a sale to 90 days from the date it is first advertised and prohibits a merchant from adding to the stock of goods offered for sale.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 926 (Speier) Personal information: supermarkets.

Enacts the Supermarket Club Card Disclosure Act of 1999, prohibiting supermarkets from requesting or requiring a customer to provide a driver's license number or social security number to obtain a supermarket club card unless the card is also a check-cashing card. Prohibits a club card issuer from selling or sharing personal identification information regarding cardholders, except for purposes of mailing supermarket club card information to cardholders.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1136 (Vasconcellos) Technology.

Renames the Trade and Commerce Agency the Technology, Trade, and Commerce Agency. Establishes additional duties including having the responsibility for identifying science and technology trends that are significant to the state. Requires the California Spaceport Authority to designate spaceports based upon applications by various entities. Specifies that an airport district may not exercise authority for the development of spaceports unless it has been designated as a spaceport by the California Spaceport Authority.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1718 (Sher) Warranties: new motor vehicles.

Expands the provisions of the lemon law to include new motor vehicles with safety defects and vehicles used primarily for business purposes. Allows consumers to assert the protections of the lemon law if the same problem with the vehicle is "likely to cause death or serious bodily injury if the vehicle is driven" and the vehicle has been subject to repair two or more times by the manufacturer or its agents, with the consumer at least once directly notifying the manufacturer of the need to repair the problem.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1815 (McPherson) Central Coast Veterans Cemetery.

Requires the Office of Planning and Research (OPR) to create a process for setting sustainable economic goals. Requires OPR to create and maintain a goalsetting and evaluation process to assist policymakers and the public in preserving and enhancing the quality of life for all Californians, making the state's business climate more competitive, conserving natural resources, and protecting and enhancing democracy and democratic ideals.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2029 (Figueroa) Contractors' State License Board.

Extends the sunset date of the Contractors' State License Board (CSLB) by two years, changes CSLB composition, establishes monitoring of CSLB, and requires CSLB to perform several studies.

Signed by the Governor.

Education

Chair: Assemblymember Kerry Mazzoni

The 1999-2000 legislative session was important for school reform. With a new Governor who had education as his 1st, 2nd, and 3rd priority, the Legislature enacted:

- A new education accountability program (SBX1 1, Alpert);
- A program for peer review by teachers (ABX1 1, Villaraigosa);
- Reform of the teaching of reading (ABX1 2, Mazzoni);
- A high school exit examination (SBX1 2, O'Connell);
- A program for parent involvement (AB 33, Soto);
- A law to end harassment and discrimination against pupils based on sexual orientation (AB 537, Kuehl);
- Laws to make schools free of toxics (AB 387, Wildman and SB 162, Escutia);
- Laws to reform charter schools (AB 631, Migden and SB 434, Johnston);
- A law to require telephones in classrooms (AB 1136, Strom-Martin);
- A grant program to increase the capacity of high schools to offer Advancement Placement Programs (SB 1689 Escutia);
- A law to give districts \$1.8 billion in discretionary funds (AB 2880, Calderon)

As the Legislature continues to enact the right kind of reforms – a targeted, deliberate approach of strategic investments to improve our schools, one that demands results and accountability – California's taxpayers can be confident that new education funds are being spent in the right way.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 25 (Mazzoni) Pupils: age of admission.

Establishes a ten-year voluntary Kindergarten Readiness Pilot Program to test the effectiveness of changing the kindergarten age of entry in order to provide opportunities for children to enhance their readiness for kindergarten, thus increasing their likelihood for future academic success.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 33 (Soto) School-parent compacts: Parent/Teacher Involvement Program.

Enacts three grant programs: the Nell Soto Parent/Teacher Involvement Grant Program, the Theresa P. Hughes Family-School Partnership Award and Grant Program, and the Tom Hayden Community-Based Parent Involvement Grant Program. These programs will do the following: provide teacher stipends and home visits or community meetings with an emphasis on schools with a large number of low-income students; fund family outreach activities by schools at \$15,000 per schoolsite; and fund community based organizations so they can offer training courses for parents to increase their involvement in the public schools.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 38 (Washington) Educational counseling.

Provides the criteria by which a school district governing board may develop a plan for the establishment of a comprehensive educational counseling and guidance program for grades K-12. Provides state support to districts that adopt grade comprehensive guidance and counseling programs.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 56 (Mazzoni) State Department of Education: English language education.

Requires the State Department of Education to contract for an independent evaluation of the educational impact of Proposition 227.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 116 (Mazzoni) Basic instructional materials: commercial brand name, product, corporate or company logo.

Prohibits the State Board of Education, and local school district governing boards from adopting instructional materials that contain unnecessary exposure to a commercial brand name, product, or logo.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 117 (Mazzoni) School district governing boards: contracts.

Prohibits exclusive districtwide contracts for the sale of carbonated beverages or use of certain electronic products unless specified procedures are followed.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 192 (Scott) California Teacher Cadet Program.

Requires the California Center on Teaching Careers to develop and operate the California Teacher Cadet Program for the purpose of introducing high school pupils to the teaching profession.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 335 (Mazzoni) State Teachers' Retirement System: class size.

Allows retired teachers to be fully paid without loss of retirement benefits when affiliated with the K-3 Class Size Reduction Program, Grade 9 Class Size Reduction Program or any current or future expansions of the class size reduction programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 387 (Wildman) School facilities: site contamination.

Provides funding for the cost of the evaluation of hazardous materials at a site to be acquired by a school district and the response cost of removal of hazardous waste.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 537 (Kuehl) Discrimination.

Establishes the California Student Safety and Violence Prevention Act of 2000, that adds as a prohibited basis for discrimination in instructional services and programs, "any basis that is contained in the prohibition of hate crimes."

Signed by the Governor.

AB 558 (Jackson) Domestic violence prevention instruction.

Authorizes, commencing with the 2001-02 school year, age-appropriate instruction in domestic violence prevention. Requires the State Department of Education to identify and distribute information and a model curriculum to school districts and county offices of education relative to domestic violence prevention instruction.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 566 (Havice) After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Program.

Allows After School Learning and Safe Neighborhoods Partnerships Programs to operate off of a school site. Allows programs to be conducted at a community park or recreation area, if the area is adjacent to the school site.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 578 (Honda) Education: domestic violence and sexual assault recognition and prevention: teacher training.

Requires the State Office of Child Abuse Prevention to provide to school districts and county offices of education information about domestic violence and sexual assault, including information about domestic violence and sexual assault prevention programs, local service agency programs, existing curricula, services provided by comprehensive domestic violence and sexual assault shelters, crisis centers and other referral services.

Held in the Senate.

AB 609 (Wildman) Special education: use of braille: braille instructors.

Requires districts to provide braille instruction to functionally blind students, unless the parents, teachers and resource specialists of the student determine it is not appropriate.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 800 (Washington) Pupil safety: injurious objects.

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to adopt a system that will protect students who report weapons at schools and provide students with a sense of security in being able to confidentially report the presence of weapons such as firearms.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 908 (Alquist) Education: gender equity training.

Establishes a gender equity-training program for teachers and requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to survey teacher training programs and adopt or revise standards relating to the inclusion of gender equity training in teacher credentials.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 910 (Washington) Education: school library materials.

Appropriates \$1 million to the State Superintendent of Public Instruction to fund the acquisition of school library materials.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1008 (Honda) Dropout Prevention and Recovery Reform Act of 2000.

Extends until January 1, 2006 the sunset on the Alternative Education and Work Centers for School Dropouts and Educational Clinics that serve the educational and vocational needs of high school dropouts. Also establishes the Dropout Prevention and Recovery Reform Act of 2000 as a five-year demonstration program in three counties to provide support services to K-12 pupils who are at risk of dropping out of school.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1026 (Mazzoni) English language instruction.

Adds clarification and modifies procedures related to English learners that are required by Proposition 227 of 1998.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1087 (Calderon) Teachers: salaries.

Revises the Jack O'Connell Beginning Teacher Salary Incentive Program by specifying how incentive funding may continue to be received by school districts and county offices of education in future years by including the incentive in district revenue limit funding.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1113 (Florez) School safety.

Establishes the School Safety and Violence Prevention Act, for which \$1 million has been appropriated in the 1999 Budget Act, to establish programs and strategies that promote school safety and emphasize violence prevention among children and youth.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1114 (Steinberg) Certificated Staff Performance Incentive Act.

Establishes a program to provide salary bonuses to certificated staff in low performing schools where pupil performance exceeds growth targets.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1117 (Calderon) Teacher salaries.

Provides incentive funding for school districts to raise minimum teacher salaries statewide to at least \$32,000.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1136 (Strom-Martin) School facilities: pupil safety: classroom telephones.

Requires any new school funded from the state school facilities program after January 1, 2000, to include a telephone connection in each classroom.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1242 (Lempert) Teacher credentialing: California Preliminary (CAP) credential.

Expands, for a five-year period, the ways by which an individual can qualify for a single subject teaching credential. Allows school districts to "sponsor" for preliminary single subject credential individuals who have a graduate degree, at least five years of full-time equivalent experience in the field and passed California Basic Education Skills Test.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1498 (Ducheny) Outdoor science programs.

Provides funding of \$10 per day for disadvantaged public school fifth and sixth grade students to attend residential outdoor science programs (science camp).

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1594 (Florez) Hepatitis A vaccinations.

Adds hepatitis A to the list of diseases that require documentation of immunization prior to admission to an elementary or secondary school, child care center, day nursery, nursery school, family day care home, or developmental center, effective July 1, 2003.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1608 (Strom-Martin) School districts: class size reduction.

Provides additional flexibility to allow more small schools, especially those in rural areas, to participate in the kindergarten to 3rd grade Class Size Reduction program of 20 students per one teacher.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1791 (Wiggins) Emergency medical services.

Allows trained school district personnel to administer auto-injectors, with pre-measured doses of medication, to students to treat potentially life-threatening anaphylactic reactions due to insect stings, food allergies or other causes.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1813 (Wildman) School facilities: site contamination funding: hazardous substance contracts.

Establishes a system under the state Superfund program that would be available to school districts that might wish to use the system on a task order basis to obtain cleanup services for contaminated schoolsites.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1827 (Mazzoni) Mathematics instruction: Standards-based Mathematics Development Act of 1998.

Increases the eligibility of school districts to receive funding for the existing mathematics staff development program by expanding the program to include teachers in middle schools grades seven and eight and teachers holding intern or pre-intern teaching certificates.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1892 (Steinberg) California New Administrator Support Program.

Establishes the California New Administrator Support Program to support first-and second-year administrators, with a focus on administrators at low performing schools (those below the 20th percentile on the Academic Performance Index). Indicators show that good, active and energetic principals help attract and retain quality teachers.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1908 (Lempert) School bonds.

Enacts the Strict Accountability in Local School Construction Bonds Act of 2000, the operation of which is contingent upon the passage of a proposed proposition for the November 2000 statewide ballot lowering the vote threshold for passage of local school bonds from the currently required two-thirds to a 55 percent voter approval rate.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1911 (Wesson) Community service: high school graduation credits.

Encourages school districts to offer high school students the opportunity to enroll in courses that include service learning activities for credit toward graduation. Requires school districts to establish policies for service-learning courses and how course credit will be assigned.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1940 (Papan) Special education: performance goals and indicators.

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction, with the approval of the State Board of Education, to establish performance goals and indicators for special education and include individuals with exceptional needs in state and local assessments consistent with federal law.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2036 (Nakano) School administrators: evaluation of certificated employees.

Sets up a grant program to train administrators on effective evaluation strategies and techniques that support instructional improvement.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2115 (Lempert) School facilities: automated fire detection, alarm, and sprinklers.

Requires K-12 school construction and modernization projects to include an automated fire detection, alarm, and sprinkler system.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2162 (Mazzoni) School accountability: school action plan.

Authorizes schools in the Immediate Intervention/Underperforming Schools Program to increase the number of instructional days and increases up to one year the length of teacher contracts.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2224 (Mazzoni) Reading comprehension: diagnosis.

Establishes the Early Reading Comprehension Diagnosis Program requiring school districts to administer a reading diagnostic assessment approved by the State Board of Education to pupils in grades 1 through 12 who have demonstrated deficits on existing assessments.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2260 (Shelley) School safety.

Establishes the Healthy Schools Act of 2000. Requires school districts to annually provide to staff and parents a written notification of the pesticide products expected to be applied in the upcoming school year. Requires each school site to maintain records of all pesticides used at the site for four years. Requires the Department of Pesticide Regulation to establish an integrated pest management program for school districts and to adopt a training program.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2392 (Corbett) Special education: foster parents.

Allows foster parents, guardians or surrogate parents to initiate an assessment for special education services for a child in their care.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2473 (Strom-Martin) Staff development.

Requires the state to reimburse, at the state per diem rate, overnight accommodations for participants of the California Reading Professional Development Institutes when the nearest institute is more than 70 miles and 1-1/2 hours from the school at which the participant teaches. Also allows for on-line study for the follow-up portion of the institute.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2597 (Cardenas) Child Care and Development Facilities Direct Loan Fund.

Increases the flexibility of the Child Care Facilities Financing Program in order to increase the number of potential eligible projects and credit-worthy borrowers, ultimately resulting in the creation of more child care spaces to help working families.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2879 (Jackson) Income Taxes: credit: teacher retention.

Authorizes a nonrefundable credit equal to \$250, \$500, \$1,000, and \$1,500 to teachers based on their years of teaching experience, designed to encourage teacher retention and compensate teachers for non-reimbursed expenses related to professional development and classroom instruction.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2880 (Calderon) School finance: deficit reduction.

Reduces the shortfalls that school districts suffered during the 90's when the state had fiscal difficulties and provides \$1.8 billion in discretionary funds to school districts by eliminating the remaining 6.996 percent revenue limit deficit.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2882 (Reyes) Education technology and professional development grants.

Establishes the Education Technology Grant Program to provide one-time grants to school districts and charter schools to acquire computers for classrooms ensuring that every public school child in California has access to a computer.

Signed by the Governor.

AJR 40 (Wildman) Special education: federal funding.

Memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to provide the full federal share of funding for special education programs so that California will not be required to take funding from other vital state and local programs to fund this under-funded federal mandate.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 20 (Figueroa) Education technology grant program.

Authorizes a high school established after October 6, 2000, that would have been eligible for an annual technology support and staff training grant under the Digital High School Education Technology Grant Act of 1997, to receive that grant.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 179 (Alpert) Healthy Start support services.

Provides sustainability grants of \$50,000 to Healthy Start programs that promote the physical, emotional, and intellectual needs of needy children.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 410 (Escutia) School finance: summer school.

Modifies the summer school and after school programs to ensure that remedial programs are available for every child needing the additional instruction.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 984 (Polanco) State holidays: Cesar Chavez Day.

Provides that March 31, "Cesar Chavez Day", be observed as a paid holiday for state agencies and permits schools to observe a minimum day, and one hour of instruction on the life and work of Cesar Chavez to all students.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1041 (Vasconcellos) School nutrition.

Requires all schools with 50 or more students, qualifying for free or reduced-cost meals through the Federal school lunch program, to offer breakfast to all of those students through the federal School Breakfast Program.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1320 (Escutia) Pupil health.

Enacts "The Pupils with Diabetes Program" which sets guidelines and requirements for schools relating to pupils with diabetes so that their needs can be met safely.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1439 (Alpert) Native American curriculum.

Requires the State Department of Education to issue a request for proposal for the development of a model curriculum on California Native American history, culture, and tribal sovereignty, to be incorporated into educational materials for pupils in grades 1 to 12 inclusive.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1542 (Schiff) Turning Point Academy.

Creates a pilot project to establish a boot camp academy for first-time juvenile offenders who are minors, 15 years or older, and use a firearm at a school or during a school activity.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1575 (Murray) Teacher credentialing: emergency permits.

Requires the Commission on Teacher Credentialing with the advice of a task force comprised of representatives of all interested parties to develop a plan by June 30, 2001 to phase out emergency permits and credential waivers. Addresses the excessive number of emergency permit teachers currently teaching in low-performing schools. Quality credentialed teachers are needed in low-performing schools to help improve test scores and student achievement.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1643 (O'Connell) Teachers' salaries.

Establishes a funding incentive to reimburse school districts and county offices of education for the costs associated with increasing fully credentialed beginning teacher salaries to \$34,000 in order to attract qualified professionals to teaching.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1644 (Ortiz) Student financial aid.

Revises and expands the Cal Grant Program and provides guarantees for Cal Grant awards, effective the 2001-02 academic year. Creates the Community College Student Financial Aid Outreach Program and appropriates \$1.5 million from the General Fund to the Student Aid Commission for administrative costs related to this act.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1666 (Alarcon) Teachers: recruitment and incentives.

Provides \$119 million to be used to reduce the number of teachers on emergency credentials by implementing signing bonuses, improved working conditions, housing subsidies, and teacher compensation at the state's low-performing schools.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1667 (Alpert) Education and government.

Appropriates a total of \$1.5 billion in current year Proposition 98 funds and \$8.9 million in budget year Proposition 98 funds. Creates a new English Language and Intensive Literacy Program, for which \$250 million is appropriated in the Budget. The new program is a grant program intended to serve English learners in grades K-12 in after-school and summer school-type classes, in order to help them improve their English language skills. Expands the existing school safety block grant from grades 8-12 to grades K-12. Districts may use funding from this block grant for any school safety-related purpose determined appropriate by local authorities.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1688 (Polanco) Education.

Establishes the Governor's Merit Scholars Program to reward ninth, tenth and eleventh grade pupils for high test scores. The program would award \$1,000 merit-based scholarships to students scoring in the top ten percent statewide or in the top five percent of their high school class on specified exams. Establishes the Governor's Distinguished Math & Science Scholars Program to provide a \$2,500 scholarship for public high school pupils who earn a \$1,000 award under the Governor's Merit Scholars Program, and attain a specified score on advanced placement exams in calculus and physical sciences.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1774 (Bowen) Computer access.

Establishes a grant program to encourage schools and public libraries to make their computer facilities available to the public on evenings and weekends.

Vetoed by the Governor.

Elections, Reapportionment and Constitutional Amendments

Chair: Assemblymember Edward Vincent

During the 1999-2000 Regular Session the committee worked hard to break down barriers to voter registration. For example, the committee approved legislation to require university and college campuses to distribute voter registration forms with university registration materials and at centrally-located campus locations. The committee also required county governments to adopt voter registration plans that meet criteria, and to update those plans every two years. The committee approved reduction of the voter registration deadline from 29 days to 14 days prior to an election.

To increase voter participation in elections, the committee approved a pilot program for weekend voting for special elections to fill vacancies in legislative and congressional seats, a pilot project to test touch-screen machines in a total of four counties, and a pilot project to test the use of Internet voting systems as a supplement to regular voting methods, in accordance with a report issued by the Secretary of State's Internet Voting Task Force.

To further encourage voter participation, the committee also approved the expansion of permanent absentee voting to any voter who submits an application. Further, in response to the invalidation of the Open Primary Act (Proposition 198 of 1996) by the United States Supreme Court, the committee adopted legislation to implement a modified closed primary system under which "independent" voters who are not affiliated with a political party, may vote the ballot of a political party at a partisan primary election, if the party has previously adopted a party rule allowing that vote.

In the area of election procedures, the committee authorized cities and counties, in the redistricting of electoral districts, to give consideration to communities of interest, and to hold at least one public hearing prior to adjusting district boundaries. The committee adopted a system of campaign finance limitations and voluntary expenditure ceilings, subject to voter approval of Proposition 34 in the November 7, 2000, General Election. In addition, in response to the scandal involving the Insurance Commissioner's office, the committee approved a measure to impose conflict of interest provisions and campaign contribution limitations on the Office of the Insurance Commissioner.

To stay abreast of developing issues, the committee voted to support the creation of a bipartisan committee to review the effect of the Political Reform Act of 1974. Also, in response to the mushrooming popularity of the Internet to conduct campaign activities, the committee created a commissioner to investigate political practices on the Internet and recommend appropriate legislative responses. In addition, in order to maintain the neutrality of local government agencies in election campaigns, the committee voted to prohibit the expenditure of local agency funds for any communication that expressly advocates the support of a ballot measure or candidate on the local election ballot.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 164 (Romero) Voter registration: university and college campuses.

Enacts the Student Voter Registration Act of 1999, which requests the University of California Regents, and requires the California State University Trustees and the board of governors of each community college district, to direct campus officials to distribute a voter registration form to each newly-admitted student, and requires campus officials to make voter registration materials available at central campus locations.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 186 (Hertzberg) Local elections: districts.

By authorizing boards of supervisors to consider existing communities of interest boundaries when redrawing district boundaries, this bill seeks to protect local communities and make government more understandable, accessible, and responsive to the people it serves. Also requires that general law city council district boundaries, when redrawn, conform to existing communities of interest boundaries. Requires the board of supervisors and the city council to hold a public hearing prior to a public vote on a redistricting plan.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 669 (Vincent) Election procedures.

Allows election officials to use electronic voting devices in satellite voting locations and clarifies that if these devices are used the ballots need not be enclosed in absentee ballot identification envelopes.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 746 (Papan) Political Reform Act of 1974.

Clarifies the definition of "foreign principal" to continue to permit United States citizens living abroad to make contributions to ballot measure campaigns.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1094 (Hertzberg) Voter registration.

Requires county elections officials to accept affidavits of registration up to 15 days prior to an election. Provides that counties will not be required to mail sample ballots to voters who register between the 15th and 29th day prior to the election. Instead, they will be sent a postcard indicating their polling place and other pertinent information.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1530 (Longville) Elections: precinct vote results.

Requires certain election results of votes cast by absentee ballot and at the polls be tabulated by precinct and the election results be provided to the Legislature for use in legislative redistricting.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2078 (Granlund) Elections: unlawful expenditures.

Prohibits a local agency from expending public funds to advocate for or against a qualified candidate or ballot measure on a local agency ballot.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2214 (Frusetta) Voter registration: e-mail address.

Allows voters the option to provide an e-mail address upon registering to vote.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2519 (Shelley) Elections: Internet voting pilot program.

Creates an Internet Voting Pilot Program administered by the Secretary of State to conduct local elections over the Internet in not more than three counties.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2583 (Cardenas) Claims against the state: payment.

Requires local jurisdictions conducting elections to pay poll workers an additional \$20 if they are fluent in a language, other than English, that is spoken by at least three percent of voting-age residents of a precinct, or if they have served as a poll worker in the previous two elections.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2720 (Olberg) Political Reform Act of 1974: Bipartisan California Commission on Internet Political Practices.

Creates a Bipartisan California Commission on Internet Political Practices to examine issues posed by campaign activity on the Internet in relation to the goals and purposes of the Political Reform Act of 1974, and to make recommendations for appropriate legislative action.

Signed by the Governor.

ACA 12 (Papan) Legislature: retirement.

Proposes that the California Constitution be amended to allow legislators to participate in the California Public Employees' Retirement System.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 917 (Polanco) Political Reform Act of 1974.

Deletes a requirement that a campaign statement filed in connection with an initiative include the name, address, and amount of payment to initiative petition circulators.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1024 (Johnson) Political Reform Act of 1974: online disclosure.

Requires the Secretary of State to disclose online an index of political committee identification numbers of every person, entity, or committee obligated to disclose campaign contributions.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1025 (Johnson) Political Reform Act of 1974: lobbyists, lobbying firms, and lobbyist employers: website directory.

Requires the Secretary of State to maintain on the World Wide Web an online version of the Lobbyist Directory. The online version would be updated weekly. Also requires the Secretary of State to post a weekly listing of the specific changes (additions, deletions, etc.) made to the directory.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1208 (Committee on Elections and Reapportionment) Election procedures.

Makes non-controversial revisions in the law relative to elections. Among these include clarifying that a student serving as a precinct board member for an election constitutes an excused absence from school for the student. Repeals the January 1, 1999, sunset on the requirement that the Legislative Analyst to prepare a concise summary of the general meaning and effect of "yes" and "no" votes on each state measure.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1223 (Burton) Campaign contributions and expenditures.

Establishes campaign contribution limits and voluntary expenditure limits; requires certain disclosures in slate mailers, paid political advertisements, and issue advocacy communications; authorizes intra-candidate transfers and restricts inter-candidate contributions; requires the aggregation of certain contributions made by affiliated entities; expands electronic filing requirements for certain contributions and certain independent expenditures; and prescribes the authorized use of surplus campaign funds.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1278 (Murray) Voter registration: county plans.

Requires each county to design and implement an outreach plan to identify and register qualified electors. Intended to ensure that counties make a diligent effort to identify under registered populations and implement programs to register them.

Vetoed by the Governor.

Environmental Safety & Toxic Materials

Chair: Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson

During the 1999-2000 session the Assembly Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials heard approximately 115 pieces of legislation. These measures addressed such topics as leaking underground storage tanks, pesticides in schools, coastal water quality, hazardous waste management, the protection of drinking water sources, air pollution, and the financing and redevelopment of contaminated properties.

The issues in the Committee's jurisdiction generally track the programs and policies administered by the California Environmental Protection Agency (Cal EPA) and its boards, departments, and office. The Committee conducted hearings on Cal EPA, the State Water Resources Control Board and the Department of Pesticide Regulation to ensure that they are fully implementing and enforcing legislative mandates. "An agency's budget and structure is a good indicator of its priorities, so it is important that Committees are active in their oversight role to make sure that state laws are being properly implemented and enforced," said Assemblymember Hannah-Beth Jackson.

Central to the Committee's work is the recognition that there is a strong connection between public health and environmental health. The Committee worked to assure that children have a healthy environment in which to grow and learn. Under the chair's leadership, it approved measures that (a) ensure that schools are not built on contaminated sites; (b) require that adequate training and warnings are given when pesticides are used at schools; and, (c) direct the Department of Health Services to make sure that children are not exposed to hazardous health conditions where portable classrooms are used, among other issues. The Committee also passed a measure to assure that air quality standards and control measures protect children as well as adults.

The Committee grappled with the difficult problems that can stifle redevelopment of blighted areas where contaminated sites may exist. The Committee helped craft legislation that will provide much needed financial assistance for completing site characterization studies and cleanup. Along with the funds committed by the Governor (\$85 million) and the State Treasurer, the bills passed by the ES&TM Committee give this issue the much needed focus and ongoing commitment it deserves.

Another major area that commanded much of this Committee's attention and effort was water quality. The Committee passed measures that complemented major funding boosts provided by the Safe Drinking Water Bond (approved by voters in March 2000) and the funding necessary to protect drinking water supplies, groundwater basins and coastal waters. Bills crafted and passed with the chair's direction strengthened enforcement, required the development of performance standards for onsite septic systems, created a coordinated response to the problem of MTBE contamination, and established greater control of non-point sources of pollution such as stormwater runoff.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 241 (Cunneen) Hazardous waste codes.

Establishes a revised time frame for revising the current hazardous waste identification code system which has been found to be inadequate, and, once a new system has been developed, a time frame for implementation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 387 (Wildman) School facilities: site contamination.

Provides funding for the cost of the evaluation of hazardous materials at a site to be acquired by a school district and the response cost of removal of hazardous waste.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 538 (Wayne) Public beaches: bacteriological standards.

Directs the regional water quality control board to establish the process to identify sources of contamination where bacteriological standards have been repeatedly exceeded at heavily visited beaches.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 604 (Jackson) Nonpoint source pollution.

In response to beach closures caused by violations of water quality standards, requires coordination among all agencies that have a regulatory effect on waters impacted by nonpoint source pollution for establishing performance goals for specific nonpoint source pollution management measures established under existing law.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 703 (Lempert) Ballast water.

Requires vessels entering the territorial sea of the United States to manage ballast water according to prescribed measures. Prohibits the discharge of any oil or noxious liquid substance, except in accordance with existing law. States that the person in charge of a vessel should minimize the discharge of ballast water containing non-indigenous species into the waters of the state, provided that such measures do not compromise the safety of the vessel.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 885 (Jackson) Onsite sewage treatment systems.

Establishes statewide performance standards for septic systems to ensure these sources do not continue to contribute to the chronic beach closure problem nor degradation of other state waters.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 982 (Ducheny) Water quality: total maximum daily loads.

Provides a framework for the implementation of the state's impaired water bodies program required by the federal Clean Water Act. Ensures that the Legislature is kept apprised of that process and that various stakeholders have input into the process.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1207 (Shelley) Environmental health and safety: environmental hazards.

Enacts the Healthy Schools Act of 1999 to prohibit the use of certain pesticides at schools, to require the recording of pesticide use by licensed pest control operators, to require the notification of parents when pesticides are applied, to establish a least-toxic pest management training for school personnel, to test schools for radon, to require schools to test their drinking water systems for lead, and to develop management practices for achieving healthy indoor air quality.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1620 (Torlakson) Hazardous materials: release.

Allows the authority to investigate the cause of an accidental hazardous materials release to be delegated to the local health officer or the local agency lender, establishing a procedure to compel testimony in those circumstances where a hazardous materials release has occurred but information concerning the cause of the accident is being withheld.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1680 (Committee on Environmental Safety and Toxic Materials) Environment and health indicators.

Appropriates \$32,140,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, the Department of Fish and Game, and the State Water Resources Control Board for expenditure in the 2000-01 fiscal year for fire suppression and detection costs, overtime compensation, and noxious aquatic weed eradication. In addition, appropriates \$809,842,000 for expenditure in the 1999-00 fiscal year for the purposes of contingencies and emergencies.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1909 (Jackson) Storm water street runoff.

Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to establish a street runoff reduction pilot program for which certain municipalities would receive grants to demonstrate the use of storm water diversion devices as a method for reducing the movement of solid wastes from streets to coastal waters.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2746 (Nakano) Large passenger vessels: water quality.

Creates the Cruise Ship Environmental Task Force to evaluate environmental practices and waste streams of large passenger vessels to prevent illegal discharges.

Signed by the Governor.

HR 20 (Jackson) Offshore Oil

Memorializes the President and Congress of the United States to enact legislation that would direct the Secretary of the Interior to impose a permanent ban on offshore oil drilling off the coast of California, to include allowing the expiration of existing undeveloped leases for offshore oil drilling. Urges Congress to pass the Coastal States Protection Act.

Adopted.

SB 25 (Escutia) Environmental health protection: children.

Requires the State Air Resources Board to carry out an ongoing review of ambient air quality and toxic air contaminants and creates a Children's Environmental Health Center within CalEPA to ensure that state ambient and toxic air contaminant standards expressly take into

account, and protect, infants and children who face an array of complex health threats from environmental exposures. Specifically targets children in disadvantaged and minority communities who often suffer disproportionately high environmental exposures to hazardous air pollutants from multiple sources such as automobiles, manufacturing facilities and the like.
Signed by the Governor.

SB 47 (Sher) Hazardous substance account: extension.

Reenacts those portions of the state Superfund program that sunsetted on January 1, 1999.
Signed by the Governor.

SB 162 (Escutia) School facilities: contamination.

Prohibits the governing board of a school district from approving the acquisition or construction of school sites unless specified environmental assessments are conducted to prevent construction on new school sites that have toxic contamination problems which often do not come to light until after construction of a new school building has started or, in some cases, has been almost completed.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 529 (Bowen) Motor vehicle fuel.

Provides that the State Air Resources Board may not adopt any regulation for motor vehicle fuel without a multimedia evaluation and review by the CA Environmental Policy Council to identify and evaluate all significant beneficial and adverse impacts on the environment. Intends to ensure that state environmental experts do not make the same mistake that was made by allowing MTBE to be introduced into gasoline in the early 1990s.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 989 (Sher) Pollution: groundwater: MTBE.

Essentially codifies an Executive Order which terminates the use of methyl tertiary butyl ether (MTBE) in motor vehicle fuel by the end of 2002, and seeks to protect groundwater supplies by increasing monitoring, and specifying containment requirements for certain tanks. Requires multimedia evaluation of new specifications for motor vehicle fuel.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1107 (Sher) Operator certification program: water distribution systems.

Revises state law addressing drinking water system operators to meet recently established national standards. Expands existing certification requirements to include distribution operators, establishes new educational, experience, and staffing requirements, requires that operators take continuing education courses to maintain their certification, and authorizes fees to support the certification program. Intended to ensure that the department has expanded authority to regulate public water system operators in a manner that ensures the continued receipt of federal Safe Drinking Water Act funds.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1119 (Alarcon) Pollution control: financing: capital access.

Authorizes the California Pollution Control Financing Authority to issue revenue bonds to assist metal finishing businesses settle their liability when they have been identified as minor responsible parties at federal Superfund sites.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1269 (Alpert) Toxic chemicals: private enforcement actions.

Establishes an information tracking system through the Attorney General's Office to better monitor lawsuits filed under the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act of 1986 (Proposition 65).

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1789 (Rainey) Hazardous substance sites: brownfields.

Requires the Department of Housing and Community Development and the Department of Toxic Substances Control to submit a study that assesses the opportunities for developing housing on so-called brownfield sites in existing urban and suburban areas to maximize land-use efficiency.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1986 (Costa) Pollution.

Authorizes the California Pollution Control Financing Authority to assist economically struggling communities in developing and implementing pollution control and other environmental programs by providing monetary smart growth grants and loans from specified funds.

Signed by the Governor.

Governmental Organization

Chair: Assemblymember Herb Wesson

The Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization during the 1999-2000 legislative session continued in its oversight of issues and legislation affecting the alcoholic beverage industry, tobacco products, Indian gaming, horse racing, card clubs, the State Lottery, and charitable gaming. The committee also presided over issues regarding the availability and disclosure of state public records.

The committee was involved with sending two constitutional amendments to the ballot to authorize Indian gaming and charitable raffles, respectively. With regard to horse racing, the committee addressed racetrack backstretch worker labor conditions as well as whether the state should regulate advanced deposit wagers on horse races. The committee also addressed the expenditure of tobacco master settlement revenues, in addition to efforts to further restrict minor access to tobacco products. The committee supported efforts to provide the Department of Alcoholic Beverages with additional operating revenues to assist them in combating sales of alcohol to minors.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 214 (Wiggins) Public contracts: materials origin.

Establishes preferences for the purchase of United States and California manufactured materials with respect to public works contracts entered into by public entities.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1234 (Shelley) State bodies: open meetings: notice: violations.

Requires state bodies to provide notice of public meetings on the Internet at least 10 days in advance of the meeting and make available the address of the Internet site.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1385 (Battin) Indian tribes: tribal-state gaming compacts.

Designates the Governor as the state officer responsible for negotiating and executing compacts between the State and federally recognized Indian tribes located in the State.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1595 (Migden) Cigar labeling.

Requires each manufacturer or importer of cigars to place, or cause to be placed, one of three warning labels on each retail package of cigars packaged for sale after September 1, 2000, and shipped for distribution in California.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1709 (Romero) Firefighters: health risks.

Creates the Firefighter Health and Safety Act of 2000, authorizing the Office of Emergency Services to recommend standards regarding the safe operation and maintenance of diesel-powered fire engines.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1759 (Papan) Public records: Internet reports.

Requires every state agency that maintains an Internet site to make available on the site a list of reports prepared by that state agency that are subject to disclosure under the California Public Records Act.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1801 (Runner) California State Lottery: advertising.

Requires the California State Lottery Commission to ensure the overall estimated odds of winning some prize or prizes in a particular lottery game are posted in all television and print advertising conducted by the California State Lottery Commission, exclusive of outdoor advertising displays, signs, or banners, related to that game.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2179 (Wesson) Gambling: prohibited online gambling games.

Prohibits Internet gambling and authorizes the Attorney General to bring action against violators. Provides that any person who aids and abets, or plays, bets at or against a prohibited online gambling game for money, checks, credit or any other representative of value while physically located in California is guilty of a misdemeanor. At present, Internet gambling is unregulated, which places California residents at risk of fraud, identity theft, and other criminal activities.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2187 (Aanestad) Alcoholic beverages: local ordinances: open containers.

Clarifies that local governments may prohibit, by ordinance in any city, county or city and county-owned park, the possession of any can, bottle, or other receptacle containing an alcoholic beverage that is opened, has the seal broken, or the contents partially consumed.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2426 (Wesson) Tobacco products: bidis.

Establishes a minimum pack size for the sale or distribution of cigarettes and a minimum quantity for the sale or distribution of loose tobacco. In 1998, the state Attorney General signed an agreement with the major U.S. tobacco companies to settle California's lawsuits against the tobacco industry for the costs of treating tobacco-related illnesses. In addition to the financial provisions of the settlement, the agreement included a prohibition against the manufacture and distribution of cigarettes in packages of less than 20. This provision of the settlement is scheduled to sunset on December 31, 2001, and after this date, if state legislation prohibiting these practices is not enacted, the tobacco manufacturers may resume the manufacture, distribution and sale of cigarettes in packages of less than 20 cigarettes.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2520 (Thomson) Alcoholic beverages: permits: winegrowers.

Authorizes small wineries to sell wine at certified farmers' markets in order to provide for additional marketing and sales opportunities for those winemakers that experience difficulty in finding conventional distribution means.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2799 (Shelley) Public records: disclosure.

Revises various provisions in the Public Records Act in order to make available public records, not otherwise exempt from disclosure, in an electronic format, if the information or record is kept in electronic format by a public agency.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2837 (Hertzberg) State nonemergency telephone number system.

Authorizes every local public agency to establish a nonemergency telephone system and would designate the digits "311" as the primary nonemergency telephone number within the system.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 639 (McPherson) Gambling: charitable raffles.

Commencing on January 1, 2001, permits raffles to be conducted by a bona fide charitable organization for the purpose of directly supporting beneficial or charitable works. At least 90 percent of the funds or other considerations raised as a result of the raffle must be used solely for the benefit of, or to provide support for, beneficial or charitable works, or as support for the organization that performs the beneficial or charitable works.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 984 (Polanco) State holidays: Cesar Chavez Day.

Makes March 31, "Cesar Chavez Day", a paid holiday for state agencies and permits schools to observe a minimum day, and one hour of instruction on the life and work of Cesar Chavez.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1293 (Chesbro) Alcoholic beverages: Napa County wine.

Provides that no wine produced, bottled, labeled, offered for sale, or sold in this state may use, in a brand name or otherwise, on any label, packaging material or advertising, the name "Napa," unless the wine meets federal regulatory standards for appellation of origin in Napa County.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1825 (Kelley) Horse racing: minimum license fees.

Provides for a minimum of \$40 million per year in license fees paid by the horse racing industry to the state for support of the Network of California Fairs, the California Horse Racing Board, and the Kenneth L. Maddy Equine Research Facility at U.C. Davis.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2104 (Morrow) Agricultural disasters.

Requires the Office of Emergency Services to develop and adopt a guidance document to the state emergency plan for state response to agriculture-related disasters.

Signed by the Governor.

SCA 11 (Burton) Gambling.

Authorizes the Governor to negotiate and conclude compacts, subject to ratification by the Legislature, for the operation of slot machines and for the conduct of lottery games and banking card games by federally recognized Indian tribes on Indian lands in accordance with federal law. Also expressly permits slot machines, lottery games, and banking card games to be conducted and operated on tribal lands subject to these compacts.

Signed by the Governor.

Health

Chair: Assemblymember Martin Gallegos

This year, the Legislature took the lead in expanding and health care coverage for working families. In August, legislative leaders moved quickly to take advantage of a federal offer to pay two-thirds of cost to purchase health insurance for the parents of children enrolled in the Healthy Families Program. AB 2900 (Gallegos) provides one year of continuous health coverage for children initially eligible for Medi-Cal, and relieves parents from endless paperwork to keep their kids insured. AB 2900 also makes California eligible to receive a Medicaid waiver to cover low-income parents -- with the federal government paying two-thirds of the cost. AB 1015 (Gallegos) requires California to apply for a waiver to cover parents of children eligible for Healthy Families. Finally, ACR 184 (Hertzberg) urges the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to apply for a Medicaid waiver to cover parents under Healthy Families.

In addition to providing access for low-income families, the Legislature enacted significant health insurance reforms by placing a limit on the premiums individuals can be charged once they lose access to job-based insurance. SB 265 (Speier and Gallegos) requires health plans and insurers to issue coverage to any individual who loses employer-sponsored coverage and tries to purchase a policy on the open market – even if that individual has a pre-existing condition. SB 265 also caps the premiums that can be charged for these policies.

Finally, the Legislature reached out to those who are most desperately in need, but are least likely to seek help – the homeless mentally ill. Through the work of the Joint Committee on Mental Health Reform, the Legislature appropriated more than \$100 million in new funds to provide housing, health care planning, outreach and patient advocacy rights for mentally ill persons and their families.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 12 (Davis) Health care coverage: second opinions.

Requires HMOs and health insurers to provide or authorize second medical opinions to enrollees.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 34 (Steinberg) Mental health funding: local grants.

Appropriates \$10 million for a grant program for one year in up to three counties to demonstrate that comprehensive resources can be provided to severely mentally ill adults who are homeless, recently released from a county jail, or otherwise at risk of homelessness or incarceration.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 39 (Hertzberg) Health care coverage: contraceptive drugs.

Establishes the Women's Contraception Equity Act, which requires health care service plan contracts to cover prescription contraceptive methods.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 40 (Wayne) Breast cancer: treatment.

Establishes the Breast Cancer Treatment Program to provide breast cancer treatment services to uninsured and underinsured women with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
Held in the Senate.

AB 55 (Migden) Health care coverage: independent medical review.

Provides that enrollees may seek an independent review whenever health care services have been denied, delayed, or otherwise limited by a plan or one of its contracting providers based on a finding that the service is not medically necessary or appropriate, and would not exclude Medi-Cal or Medicare beneficiaries from participation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 58 (Davis) Health care practitioners.

Ensures that the ultimate responsibility for the denial or limitation of health care services rests with a California licensed physician who is accountable to the California Medical Board.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 88 (Thomson) Health care coverage: mental illness.

Requires a health care service plan contract or disability insurance policy to provide coverage for the severe mental illnesses of a person, and for the serious emotional disturbances of a child.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 285 (Corbett) Health care coverage: medical advice services.

Requires health insurers that provide telephone medical advice to patients be licensed to provide that service and be supervised by a California-licensed physician.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 394 (Kuehl) Health facilities: nursing staff.

Establishes staffing ratios for nurses in hospitals and limits the nursing-related duties that may be performed by unlicensed personnel.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 437 (Wesson) Tobacco: sale to minors: enforcement.

Appropriates \$2 million in each fiscal year from the General Fund to the Department of Health Services for the Stop Tobacco Access to Kids Enforcement program, intended to reduce youth access to illegal tobacco sales.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 591 (Wayne) Health insurance: coverage for clinical trials.

Requires health care service plans and disability insurers to cover routine patient care costs associated with Phase II and III cancer clinical trials for life threatening conditions.

Held in the Senate.

AB 610 (Jackson) Health care coverage: children's cancer.

Requires health insurers to provide coverage for patient care costs incurred in connection with Federal Drug Administration-approved clinical trial programs for the treatment of children's cancer.

Held in the Senate.

AB 892 (Alquist) Health care service plans: hospice care.

Requires health care service plans to provide hospice care as a basic health care service.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1015 (Gallegos) Healthy Families: eligibility.

Extends eligibility under the Healthy Families Program (HFP) to include the uninsured parents of HFP children. The HFP expenditures are approximately 67 percent federal funds and 33 percent General Fund. Federal financial participation would be required for this measure to be operative.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1098 (Romero) Health.

Increases criminal penalties for Medi-Cal fraud and expands the Attorney General's use of the Grand Jury process to investigate Medi-Cal fraud. Adds Medi-Cal fraud to the definition of organized crime to allow forfeiture of assets purchased with criminal profits.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1363 (Davis) School health centers.

Establishes guidelines and requirements for school health centers (SHCs) and allows those which meet required conditions to be included as traditional and safety net providers that can contract with health plans participating in the Healthy Families Program. Permits a variety of reproductive health, drug and alcohol, and other specialized services to be provided at an SHC.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1545 (Correa) Health practitioners.

Permits nurse practitioners and physician assistants to furnish prescription drugs to patients in their place of practice. Helps clarify existing law to avoid delays in providing quality, timely care, especially in inner city, rural and underserved areas.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1800 (Thomson) Mental health.

Expands the conditions and length of time for which a person may be involuntarily detained and treated for mental illness to provide intervention for those with a history of mental illness and to give those persons access to timely treatment.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1851 (Longville) Vital records: change of sex.

Permits persons born in California to file a petition for the issuance of a new birth certificate after undergoing a sex change operation, even though they are no longer residents of the state. Establishes a procedure for California residents who do not have California birth certificates to obtain certificates of change of sex.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1863 (Gallegos) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Increases the income eligibility limit to qualify for no-cost Medi-Cal so more people will be eligible. Allows the medically needy to keep more of their income before they incur a share of cost.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1969 (Steinberg) Mental health: housing.

Establishes a long-term care mental health working group to develop long-term care facilities for persons with mental illness and also establishes an Internet-accessible information source with data on mental health facilities.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1974 (Migden) Healthy Families Program.

Requires the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board (MRMIB), in conjunction with other agencies to develop an informational document for employers to distribute to employees concerning the Healthy Families Program (HFP) and the Medi-Cal for children program. Establishes processes for HFP premium payments through payroll deduction and electronic fund transfer.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2034 (Steinberg) Mental health funding: local grants.

Continues and expands a demonstration program initiated in fiscal year 1999-2000, that provides mental health outreach, case management, and other services to persons with mental illness who are homeless or at-risk of homelessness.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2103 (Strom-Martin) Primary health care services.

Establishes minimum criteria for certain clinics funded under the Department of Health Services grant programs for services provided to rural and migrant farm worker populations.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2151 (Wayne) California Children's Services Program: financial eligibility.

Increases the gross income eligibility requirement for the California Children's Services Program from \$40,000 or less to 300 percent of the federal poverty level.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2161 (Vincent) Mental health.

Authorizes a marriage and family therapist registered intern, while working under the supervision of certain licensed professionals, to provide mental health services to a consenting minor age 12 or older.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2167 (Gallegos) Tissue donations.

Grants the oversight and regulation of the Uniform Anatomical Gift Act to the State Department of Health Services and requires the department to research and report on a variety of issues related to organ and tissue recovery.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2194 (Gallegos) Temporary health facility licensing.

Authorizes and regulates use of temporary hospital structures during a hospital's seismic related construction.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2294 (Davis) Ephedrine group alkaloids: dietary supplements: sale, distribution, and labeling.

Prohibits the sale or distribution of any dietary supplement product containing ephedrine, unless the product meets specified requirements. Imposes requirements on product labels for dietary supplement products containing ephedrine.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2299 (Gallegos) Healthy families: dental and vision benefits: eligibility.

Permits persons who meet the eligibility criteria for the Healthy Families Program and who have health benefits outside the program, but who do not have dental or vision benefits otherwise available, to be able to subscribe to the dental and vision benefits of the program.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2394 (Firebaugh) Healing arts: cultural and linguistic competency.

Establishes the Task Force on Culturally and Linguistically Competent Physicians and Dentists to ensure that health care providers are able to treat California's culturally and linguistically diverse patient population.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2415 (Migden) Health care: Healthy Families Program: Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Deletes a requirement that Healthy Families Program eligibility for children who are qualified aliens is dependent upon federal participation and requires the Department of Health Services to conduct a feasibility study on simplifying the administration of the Medi-Cal program.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2591 (Cardenas) Oral health services.

Requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish a grant program to award capital outlay grants to primary care clinics to support development or expansion of oral health services. The DHS must develop a process and criteria for making grants.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2599 (Cardenas) Cervical Cancer Community Awareness Campaign.

Establishes the Cervical Cancer Community Awareness Campaign in the Department of Health Services.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2611 (Gallegos) Health facilities: emergency services.

Requires hospitals providing basic emergency services to develop and maintain a date-specific list of physicians to provide additional examination and treatment necessary to stabilize an individual with an emergency condition.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2820 (Cardoza) Feminine hygiene products: study.

Requires the Department of Health Services to contract with the University of California for the preparation and submittal to the department of a study that determines the extent to which the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in feminine hygiene products pose risks to the health of women who use the products and their children.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2877 (Thomson) Public health programs: Budget Act implementation.

Omnibus trailer bill for health services, implementing the policies in the 2000-2001 Budget Act. Among other things, it:

- Provides no cost Medi-Cal to aged, blind and disabled persons with incomes up to 100 percent of the federal poverty level (FPL).
- Eliminates the requirement that Medi-Cal beneficiaries submit quarterly income reports.
- Reduces by \$55 million the state administrative fee in the Disproportionate Share Hospital program.
- Establishes the Breast Cancer Treatment program for uninsured and underinsured high-risk women with incomes below 200 percent of the federal poverty level.
- Establishes the Prostate Cancer Treatment program for high-risk men with incomes below 200 percent of the FPL.
- Extends for one year Healthy Families eligibility for legal immigrant children.
- Allows the Department of Mental Health to establish a system for the imposition of prompt and effective civil sanctions for long-term care facilities.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2878 (Wayne) Breast cancer: treatment.

Establishes the Breast Cancer Treatment program within the Department of Health Services for high-risk women with incomes up to 200 percent of the federal poverty level.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2900 (Gallegos) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Extends continuous eligibility for Medi-Cal to children 19 years of age and younger, assuring children a full year of uninterrupted health coverage from the date they are determined eligible for Medi-Cal.

Signed by the Governor.

ACR 184 (Hertzberg) Demonstration Projects under the State Children's Health Insurance Program.

Urges the Managed Risk Medical Insurance Board to apply, by October 15, 2000, to the federal government for a demonstration project under the federal State Children Health Insurance Program (called the Healthy Families Program in California) which would include, at a minimum, health care coverage for the parents of children enrolled in the Healthy Families Program and a proposal for public health initiatives providing health care services to all low-income children.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 5 (Rainey) Health care benefits: breast cancer services.

Prohibits the denial of enrollment or coverage to an individual solely due to a family history of breast cancer, or someone who has had one or more diagnostic procedures for breast disease but has not developed or been diagnosed with breast cancer.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 19 (Figueroa) Medical records: confidentiality.

Makes it an alternate felony/misdemeanor for contractors of health care providers to intentionally share, sell or use confidential medical records for commercial purposes, regardless of whether the patient suffered any loss or injury.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 21 (Figueroa) Health care service plans: duty of care.

Requires health plans to be legally responsible to patients to ensure that health care providers, rather than the health plans, are in charge of patient care.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 59 (Perata) Health care coverage.

Requires health plans and health insurers to adopt and follow policies and procedures when determining whether to authorize or deny treatment, including responding within five days when a patient's recovery is in jeopardy.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 64 (Solis) Health insurance: management and treatment of diabetes.

Requires health insurers to provide coverage for equipment and supplies for the management and treatment of diabetes when medically necessary or appropriate.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 87 (Escutia) Medi-Cal: eligibility.

Sets forward requirements and procedures for providing uninterrupted health coverage through the Medi-Cal program and for reviewing Medi-Cal eligibility for beneficiaries when CalWORKs benefits have been terminated.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 97 (Burton) Health facilities.

Prohibits a health facility from discriminating against a patient or employee who presents a grievance or cooperates in any investigation against that facility.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 147 (Alpert) Medi-Cal eligibility.

Adopts the federal option to extend Medi-Cal benefits to foster youth up to age 21 and to eliminate existing income and resource standards for former foster youth.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 189 (Schiff) Health care coverage: grievances: independent medical review.

Establishes an independent review process for health insurance beneficiaries in the event they are denied care and are unsatisfied with the result of the insurer's internal grievance process.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 205 (Perata) Health coverage: cancer screening tests.

Requires that every health care service plan contract provide coverage for all generally medically accepted cancer screening tests.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 265 (Speier) Health care coverage: federally eligible defined individuals.

Conforms to the federal Health Insurance Portability and Accounting Act of 1996, including requiring a health care service plan or disability insurer to issue their two most popular health care coverage products to federally eligible individuals.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 673 (Escutia) Tobacco settlement fund allocations.

Creates the Tobacco Settlement Fund and specifies that all funds received pursuant to the tobacco litigation Master Settlement Agreement of November 23, 1998, be deposited in that fund. Specifies that, upon appropriation by the Legislature, moneys in the fund shall be used for certain health and tobacco cessation purposes.

Held in the Senate.

SB 929 (Polanco) Optometry.

Allows an assistant to perform additional duties under the direct responsibility and supervision of an ophthalmologist or optometrist. Provides that the practice of optometry also includes the prevention, diagnosis, treatment, management, and rehabilitation of disorders of the visual system.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1364 (Johnston) Genetics: test disclosure.

Requires that standards for hereditary disorder programs established by the Department of Health Services include licensure of master level genetic counselors and doctoral level clinical geneticists.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1471 (Schiff) Health care liens.

Prohibits a health plan, insurer, medical group or independent practice association lien for recovery of money paid for health care services for an enrollee or insured from exceeding the amount actually paid for those health care services.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1534 (Perata) Mental health: patient advocacy: special programs.

Clarifies the rights and responsibilities of mental health advocates. Specifies that persons with psychiatric disabilities living in community care facilities are also within the scope of responsibility of patients' rights advocates (PRA). Allows a PRA to inspect and copy confidential patient records that obscure the identity of the patient without the consent of the patient in the course of investigating a complaint made by or about a client, unless the patient objects.

Held in the Senate.

SB 1596 (Ortiz) Health reporting: confidentiality of information.

Expands privacy protections of confidential medical information contained in the California Cancer Registry, the birth defects monitoring program, and morbidity and mortality studies. However, the rebuttable presumption in favor of preserving confidentiality may be overcome in limited cases where the court finds disclosure of the information will serve to protect public health or safety.

Held in the Senate.

SB 1630 (Hayden) Assisted reproductive technology.

Requires disclosures and informed consent from both donors and recipients of assisted reproductive technology. Requires certification by the Medical Board of California before a physician may practice assisted reproductive technology and establishes an assisted reproductive technology task force.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1766 (Chesbro) Primary care clinics.

Extends the current Maintenance of Effort funding allocation formula for medical clinics serving the uninsured and defines "new applicants" for funding distribution purposes.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1839 (Speier) Health insurance: prostate cancer: coverage for clinical trials.

Requires health care service plans and disability insurers to cover routine patient care costs associated with Phase II and III clinical trials for life-threatening prostate cancer.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1886 (Escutia) Health facilities: seismic safety.

Requires reporting of cost estimates for hospital compliance with seismic safety standards.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 2050 (Speier) Children's health care programs.

Requires the Department of Health Services (DHS) to establish procedures for applying for Medi-Cal and the Healthy Families Program (HFP) over the Internet, and requires DHS to convene a workgroup and report to the Legislature regarding unifying Medi-Cal and HFP.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 2100 (Vasconcellos) Healing arts: nonconventional treatment.

Requires the California Medical Board, on or before January 1, 2002, to establish guidelines for licensed physicians and surgeons to use if they choose to practice alternative, complementary, or integrative medicine.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2136 (Dunn) Health care providers: multiple audits.

Requires the director of the State Department of Managed Care to adopt regulations on uniform quality audits on or before July 1, 2001. Deems qualifying individual and group providers to be in compliance with health plans' quality audit requirements and requires they be exempt from multiple plan quality audits.

Signed by the Governor.

Higher Education

Chair: Assemblymember Ted Lempert

The Assembly Committee on Higher Education sought to expand access to postsecondary education for a diversity of students by (1) dramatically expanding the Cal Grant program to guarantee low-income students access to financial aid, (2) streamlining the transfer process for community college students seeking a four-year degree, (3) waiving nonresident tuition for foreign exchange students, students who are the dependents of active duty military and students who are prohibited from establishing US residency, and (4) streamlining the Assumption Program of Loans for Education program in order to recruit more individuals to the teaching profession.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 2 (Alquist) Personal income tax: exclusions: educational assistance programs.

Allows taxpayers to exclude from taxable income up to \$2,625 in employer-provided graduate education expenses to improve the competitiveness of California's high-tech companies and promote the state's economic development.

Held in the Senate.

AB 31 (Reyes) Teacher training: rural area schools: Assumption Program of Loans for Education.

Expands the Assumption Program of Loans for Education (APLE), beginning in 2000-01, to provide loan assumptions to students who agree to teach in rural areas.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 172 (Firebaugh) Public postsecondary education.

Establishes the International Higher Education Scholarship Act with: (1) the International Higher Education Scholarship Program, to be administered by the California State University (CSU), and (2) the Community College International Student Exchange Program. Appropriates \$126,500 from the General Fund to CSU for the international scholarship.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 422 (Steinberg) Instructional materials: disabled students.

Requires textbook publishers to provide electronic versions of textbooks or instructional materials to be transcribed or converted for use by persons with disabilities when the materials are needed as part of a course at the University of California, the California State University, or the California community colleges.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 434 (Aroner) Student aid: emancipated foster youth.

Establishes the Cal Grant F program administered by the Student Aid Commission to provide higher education financial assistance for four years to foster youth after they emancipate from the foster care system. County welfare departments are required to notify in writing all foster youth ages 16 to 19 of their eligibility for the grant program.

Held in the Senate.

AB 630 (Cardenas) Instruction: honors courses: statewide standards.

Provides that a school district must submit for approval to the Office of the President of the University of California, those courses that a district desires to designate or characterize as "honors." Additionally, the bill authorizes school districts where 75 percent or more of the pupils receive free or reduced cost meals, to apply for grants for the high schools within those districts desiring to start-up or expand existing honors course programs.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 666 (Romero) College admissions testing opportunity program.

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to establish a statewide college admissions test-taking program to increase the number of pupils taking college admissions tests.

Held in the Senate.

AB 968 (Ducheny) California State University: Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology

Expresses legislative intent to provide financial support to the California State University Program for Education and Research in Biotechnology at a level that will maintain and enhance its role in the preparation of the workforce in this industry.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1197 (Firebaugh) Public post-secondary education: residency.

Qualifies long-term California residents, regardless of citizenship status, for the lower resident fee payments at the California Community Colleges and the California State University and requests UC to make the same provisions.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1282 (Jackson) Teacher credentialing.

Directs the Commission on Teacher Credentialing to make needed improvements to the state basic skills proficiency test.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1346 (Runner) Public post-secondary education: resident classification.

Allows active-duty military members and their dependents attending California's public colleges and universities to pay their student fees at California resident rates.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1570 (Villaraigosa) California Post-secondary Education Commission.

Requires California Post-secondary Education Commission to develop and maintain its comprehensive post-secondary database to support longitudinal studies of individual students as they progress through the State's post-secondary education system.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1850 (Correa) California public universities: spouses and children of deceased public safety officers: educational benefits.

Prohibits the Regents of the University of California and the Trustees of the California State University System from requiring or collecting fees or tuition from any surviving spouse of law enforcement officers or firefighters who were killed in the performance of their duties.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1861 (Runner) Public post-secondary education: articulation agreements.

Requests the Regents of the University of California, and would require the Trustees of the California State University and the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges, to develop a standardized system of eligibility for transferable courses of the California Community Colleges.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2476 (Romero) Public post-secondary education: California Community College Deferment Act.

Establishes the California Community College Deferment Act (CCDA) to encourage students who qualify to attend the University of California (UC) to instead attend a community college, for two years by guaranteeing a spot at the UC campus at which the student was accepted. The students would be counted as UC students for budgetary purposes, and the regents would reimburse participating community colleges for their costs. In addition, CCDA participants would have their fees waived during their junior and senior year at UC.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2496 (Washington) Community colleges: book grants.

Requires the Board of Governors of the California Community Colleges (CCCs) to provide a book grant to low-income students to help pay for books and supplies. Requires the grants to be used only at campus bookstores. Appropriates \$65 million to the Chancellor of the CCC without regard to fiscal year.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2794 (Havice) California Community Colleges Economic Development Program.

Extends until January 1, 2003 the sunset on the Economic Development Program (ED>NET), administered by the California Community Colleges.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2883 (Villaraigosa) University of California.

Authorizes the University of California (UC) to establish three research institutes to be located on separate UC campuses.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1330 (Alpert) Student financial aid: Assumption Program of Loans for Education.

Increases the maximum amount of loan assumption benefits that can be earned in the Assumption Program of Loans for Education for individuals committing to teach for four years in low performing schools or schools whose students are primarily from low-income families.

Signed by the Governor.

Housing and Community Development

Chair: Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal

The 1999-2000 legislative session was extremely productive and important for statewide housing policy. One of the effects of the booming California economy has been an unprecedented increase in property values and concomitant skyrocketing rents.

Under the leadership of Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal, Chair of the Assembly Housing and Community Development Committee, the Legislature passed the largest appropriation for affordable housing programs in the history of the state. This year, the Governor signed a budget that included \$570 million for multifamily housing development and homeownership down-payment assistance programs.

Assemblymember Lowenthal and members of the Assembly Housing Committee led the Legislature to increases in funding for affordable housing as well as legislation to maximize existing resources. Legislation passed over the last two years established incentives that will result in the building thousands of new housing units, to be offered at affordable rents.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 97 (Torlakson) Taxation: low-income housing.

Deletes the January 1, 2000, sunset date repeal of California's low-income housing credit program and establishes an annual tax credit limit of \$50 million. This low-income housing tax credit program is one of the few remaining resources for affordable housing, but it is scheduled to expire at the end of the year.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 178 (Torlakson) Development: financial assistance: relocation.

Prohibits cities, counties, and redevelopment agencies from offering any financial assistance to an auto dealership or a big box retailer that relocates from one city or county to another community in the same market area, unless the receiving community offers a contract to share some of the resulting sales tax revenues with the other city or county.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 423 (Dutra) Fire protection: roofing materials.

Requires the installation of fire retardant roofing material when repairing, altering, or replacing an existing roof.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 643 (Wesson) Job training: California YouthBuild Program.

Establishes a YouthBuild Program within the Employment Development Department to provide grants to organizations that employ and train disadvantaged youth in conjunction with the construction or rehabilitation of housing for low-income populations. Provides an effective option for high school dropouts to complete their education or get vocational training.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 919 (Dutra) Land use: local agencies.

Makes changes to the findings that a city or county must make before denying an affordable housing project. Strengthens existing state law regarding affordable housing approvals but still leaves the decision to approve or disapprove a development project with the local legislative body.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1001 (Villaraigosa) Fair employment and housing.

Prohibits employment discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in the Fair Employment and Housing Act. Also codifies case law that prohibits housing discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. Affords employment and housing protection to individuals regardless of sexual orientation, defined as "heterosexuality, homosexuality, and bisexuality."

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1626 (Torlakson) Taxation: low-income housing.

Increases the annual low-income housing tax credit limit from \$35 million to \$50 million to help increase construction of low-income housing.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1823 (Dutra) Common interest developments: disciplinary actions.

Requires common interest development (CID) community associations to notify a homeowner when the board of directors plans to meet to consider that member's alleged violation of an association's rules, and to deliver copies of records pertaining to penalties and unresolved violations of the governing documents to prospective sellers of interests in CIDs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1901 (Steinberg) Housing: construction: prevailing wages.

Requires that developers receiving loans from the Department of Housing and Community Development, agree to the payment of prevailing wage rates during construction.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1903 (Lowenthal) Taxation: low-income housing.

Allows investors to claim state and federal low-income housing credits differently, thereby, increasing the marketability of tax credits by increasing their value and allowing more project capital to be raised from each tax credit issued.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2054 (Torlakson) Balance of jobs and housing.

Creates the Job-Housing Balance Improvement Account as a special fund in the State Treasury and continuously appropriates funds in this account to the Department of Housing and Community Development for the purposes of funding the grants awarded through the Jobs-Housing Balance Improvement Program, for transit-oriented predevelopment loans, and related administrative expenses of the department.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2060 (Steinberg) Federal tax credits: housing: teachers.

Authorizes the California Debt Limit Allocation Committee to set aside a portion of the annual private activity tax-exempt bond ceiling for the Extra Credit Teacher Home Purchase Program. This legislation provides another way to recruit and retain qualified teachers and assist low-achieving schools.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2070 (Shelley) Teachers Homebuyer Assistance Program.

Enacts the Teachers Homebuyers Assistance Program to provide home loan assistance for teachers employed in low-performing schools.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2112 (Dutra) Home warranty program.

Declares that California has a statewide building crisis and that Californians want to buy from homebuilders that are able to stand behind their work. Sets forth the intent of the Legislature that Californians have access to affordable for sale housing that incorporates high quality construction and is free from construction defects.

Held in Conference Committee.

AB 2755 (Bock) Housing: rehabilitation.

Expands the types of affordable housing projects for which local governments must give density bonuses to include converting a commercial building to residential use or creating additional housing units in the course of rehabilitating an existing residential dwelling.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 476 (Chesbro) Mobilehomes: liquefied petroleum gas sales.

Caps the price a mobilehome park manager may charge mobilehome park residents for liquid propane to 110 percent of the actual price paid, when the residents can only purchase their propane from the park management.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 574 (Dunn) Mobilehome Park Purchase Fund.

Authorizes the Department of Housing and Community Development to make loans from the Mobilehome Park Purchase Fund to qualified nonprofit housing sponsors and local public entities for the conversion of parks to ownership by those sponsors or local public entities.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1121 (Alarcon) California Debt Limit Allocation Committee: rental housing.

Creates a new Multifamily Housing Program within the Department of Housing and Community Development to provide deferred loans for projects to construct, rehabilitate, or acquire transitional or rental housing.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1545 (Costa) Housing: employee housing.

Imposes permitting requirements on local governments regarding proposals to rehabilitate employee housing for agricultural workers or to improve water or wastewater systems serving that housing. Intended to help address substandard living conditions in labor camps.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1572 (Alarcon) Housing assistance: termination: notice.

Requires an owner to provide tenants and affected government entities with a preliminary notice 12 months prior to the anticipated date of an opt-out or prepayment and allows the owner to satisfy this requirement by fulfilling federal notice requirements.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1593 (Burton) Housing programs.

Implements numerous recommendations of the Senate Task Force on Homelessness. Amends state housing assistance programs by requiring:

- providers of emergency shelter or transitional housing to provide adequate facilities so that all members of a family may be housed together;
- unexpended emergency housing funds for non-urban counties to be allocated to urban counties;
- The Housing and Community Development to consider raising the maximum Emergency Housing grants from \$300,000 to \$500,000; and,
- adding veterans to the target population for supportive housing.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1627 (Dunn) Mobilehome parks: fire protection.

Requires the State Department of Housing and Community Development to adopt and implement regulations requiring regular maintenance and the periodic inspection of fire hydrants in mobilehome parks.

Signed by the Governor.

Human Services

Chair: Assemblymember Dion Aroner

Child support

The most significant structural reform in the human services arena this legislative session was the re-design of California's child support collection system. After years of criticism and multi-million dollar federal penalties for the counties' abysmal collection rate, legislation was enacted in 1999 that removed responsibility for child support collection from the county district attorneys and established a new state department to which newly-formed county agencies will be responsible. The state, for the first time, will have direct authority over county collection activities and will be able to intervene meaningfully if problems ensue. The legislation also delineated criteria for a new statewide computer system, developed in conjunction with the Franchise Tax Board, to support the collection effort.

Child care

California took a major step forward in safeguarding and expanding quality child care for low income working families. In December, 1999, it appeared that insufficient funding would result in the loss of child care for large numbers of families moving from welfare to work. The committee held a hearing in conjunction with the Budget Committee, which led to an infusion of funds in January, the development of a more accurate budgeting strategy, and greater cooperation between county welfare departments and child care providers.

The committee then addressed the larger need to expand access to affordable child care for non-welfare working families and improve the quality of care by slowing the turnover rate of trained child care workers. While waiting lists for subsidized child care are skyrocketing, many child care centers report they cannot take more children because they are unable to attract and retain staff. The committee was involved in initiatives in both areas, resulting in legislation to expand subsidized care for pre-school children, repair and renovate child care facilities, and fund retention strategies for staff of subsidized centers.

Abused and neglected children

More than 100,000 abused and neglected children are living in the state's foster care system. Many languish for years, shuffle from placement to placement, and leave with poor academic backgrounds and little chance of future success. These children also disproportionately end up in the juvenile justice system, often because their emotional and mental health needs have gone unmet for years. The committee focused on three areas – improving access to health and mental health services, preparing emancipating youth for life after foster care, and increasing the possibility of adoptive placements for more children.

Disabled Californians

As the population ages and increasing numbers of individuals find themselves living with severe disabilities, the state faces a growing need to meet the needs of this population in the community – not to tuck them away in institutions. The committee worked to improve services to persons

with physical and developmental disabilities by broadening the options available to them, including independent living and increased participation in the workforce. It also re-visited the In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) program which provides domestic and personal care to low income individuals who otherwise are at risk of institutional placement. In conjunction with the Budget Committee, legislation moved forward, with funding, to increase salaries of IHSS workers and improve recipients' ability to recruit, screen and train these critical workers.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 105 (Alquist) Child Care and Development Services: State Master Plan.

Requires the advisory committee and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, in consultation with the State Department of Social Services, the Secretary for Education and the chair of the California Children and Families First Commission, to develop a state master plan for child care and development services on or before January 1, 2002, subject to the appropriation of funding for that purpose.

Held in the Senate.

AB 150 (Aroner) California Child Support Automation System.

Requires the Department of Social Services to develop, implement, and maintain the California Child Support Automation System, creating a single statewide automated system to facilitate the exchange of case information between counties, making it harder for noncustodial parents to escape responsibility and easier for custodial parents to work with the system.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 212 (Aroner) Child care and development.

Provides dollar-for-dollar matching funds to local jurisdictions that establish a stipend program, supported by local funds, to encourage individuals entering the child care and development field to pursue professional preparation in that field.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 370 (Wright) Child support.

Requires state licenses, including drivers' licenses, to be reinstated within five days of notification that a child support obligor has complied with a support order and requires family support notices to include the date on which they were calculated.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 472 (Aroner) Public assistance: child support services.

Provides custodial and noncustodial parents with the right to a state fair hearing under the existing State Department of Social Services hearing process to address disputes concerning child support collections, procedures and services.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 645 (Honda) Minors: special education.

Establishes procedures to ensure a child under the jurisdiction of the juvenile court in need of protective supervision is assessed and referred for appropriate special education services if the child has learning disabilities.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 740 (Steinberg) Dependent children: sibling groups.

Permits a court to limit the time in which family reunification services are offered and in which parental rights are terminated in cases of sibling groups.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 855 (Cardenas) Child care and development programs.

Modifies provisions of the Child Care Facility Loan Guaranty and Direct Loan programs. Authorizes loan guaranties or direct loans to be made for improvements necessary to expand upon or preserve existing child care operations.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1753 (Romero) Alzheimer's disease and related disorders.

Establishes training and disclosure requirements for any residential care facility for the elderly that advertises or promotes special care for persons with dementia. Without this specialized training, staff members lack the ability to address the unique needs of patients suffering from dementia.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2012 (Shelley) Foster care providers: educational support requirements.

Appropriates \$5 million from the General Fund to expand the Foster Youth Services program by authorizing any county office of education, consortium of school districts, or consortium of county offices of education to provide educational services to children who reside in licensed foster care homes.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2160 (Cunneen) Child care and development: reimbursement rates.

Authorizes increased child care reimbursement rates for state-funded child care centers and school-age extended day programs in high-cost regions where the need has been demonstrated.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2375 (Honda) Juveniles: special education.

Revises and clarifies existing law pertaining to the responsibilities of county welfare department child protective services personnel and juvenile court personnel to ensure that educational services are provided to children adjudged a dependent of the court, including special education services for children with learning disabilities or whose exceptional needs justify accommodations.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2623 (Rod Pacheco) Department of Justice: criminal background checks.

Permits the Department of Justice to release to a county or state licensing, certification or employment agency criminal background information that has not been fingerprint verified.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2778 (Jackson) Child care facilities.

Requires the Superintendent of Public Instruction to contract with a nonprofit organization to increase available financing opportunities for child care centers and family day care homes.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2876 (Aroner) Health and welfare programs.

Omnibus social services Budget trailer bill which makes changes to various programs. Of particular note:

- Establishes the Caregiver Training Initiative to recruit, train and retain health care providers such as certified nurse assistants and registered nurses.
- Allows for a state share of cost of wages up to \$7.50 per hour and individual health benefits up to 60 cents per hour for individual in-home supportive service (IHSS) providers.
- Allows for a state share of cost of up to a three percent wage increase for non-public authority IHSS individual providers.
- Increases rates for foster family agencies to provide a 10 percent wage pass-through and a \$100 clothing allowance for foster children.

Requires DSS to submit a community outreach and education plan to help families learn about and apply for the federal Food Stamp program and the California Food Assistance Program, which is extended for immigrants through 9/21/2001.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2878 (Wayne) Breast cancer: treatment.

Establishes the Breast Cancer Treatment Program within the Department of Health Services.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2921 (Committee on Human Services) Minors: adoption: dependent children.

Permits nonrelative adoptive parents to enter into agreements to allow the adoptive child to maintain contact with birth parents after the adoption.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 156 (Figueroa) Child development: California Early Start Program.

Extends the repeal date of the Early Start Program to January 1, 2003. Also requires the State Department of Developmental Services and the State Department of Education to submit a report to the Legislature by January 1, 2002.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 872 (Polanco) Education: citizenship centers.

Establishes a Citizenship Center Program to provide outreach to eligible immigrant residents, citizenship instruction, and assistance with the naturalization process.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1619 (Alpert) Playground safety.

Requires the Department of Social Services to convene a working group to develop recommendations for minimum safety requirements for playgrounds at child care centers.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1703 (Escutia) Child care.

States the Legislature's intent to provide sufficient funding through an appropriation in the annual Budget Act to fund the cost of providing high quality child care and development services for all individuals who meet the income eligibility criteria by 2005.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1896 (Ortiz) Community care facilities: small family homes.

Clarifies state law that a small family home shall not be denied a fire clearance because it fails to comply with local or state fire safety requirements that are not required of a family dwelling.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1946 (McPherson) Kinship support services.

Lowers requirement for counties to participate in the Kinship Support Services Program (KSSP) from those placing 40 percent of dependent children in relative care to those placing 25 percent.

Gives a priority for funding for the 2001-2002 fiscal year to counties that have participated in KSSP or have received technical assistance and training to become KSSP eligible.

Signed by the Governor.

Information Technology

Chair: Assemblymember John Dutra

Having spent much of last year setting in place, and then overseeing, state preparations for the Y2K challenge, the Assembly Committee on Information Technology spent much of the actual Year 2000 crafting legislation to bring government more thoroughly into the Internet Age.

Under the leadership of its Chair, Assemblymember John Dutra, the committee focused largely on legislation coordinating the digital delivery of more efficient and effective state and local government services, ranging from Department of Motor Vehicles permitting to the disclosure of public records related to the financing of elections.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 724 (Dutra) State government: Year 2000 Problem Good Government Omnibus Act of 1999.

Declares Year 2000 (Y2K) Problem remediation to be the top information technology priority for all state agencies and makes changes to current practice in anticipation of potential Y2K problem impacts on state governmental operations, including, clarifying the authority of the state to print and post checks and warrants prior to January 1, 2000, and permitting pharmacists to fill additional refills upon request of the recipient.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2817 (Honda) Information technology: innovation projects grant program.

Establishes the "Information Technology Innovation Grants Program" for the purpose of awarding grants to state agencies to fund innovative information technology projects.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2934 (Correa) Department of Motor Vehicles: information

Allows the Department of Motor Vehicles to use electronic means to create, collect, receive, accept, store, transfer, distribute, publish, and otherwise utilize information, documents, and other records.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2935 (Committee on Information Technology) Government records.

Makes various changes to the administration of records and required document management practices by local governments, including allowing for the recording of a lien with a facsimile signature with certain specifications.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2936 (Committee on Information Technology) Department of Information Technology: repeal date.

Extends until July, 2005, the sunset date for the Department of Information Technology, the Hawkins Data Center (within the Department of Justice), the Health and Human Services Agency Data Center, and the Teale Data Center.

Held in the Senate.

SB 1822 (Bowen) Employee computer records.

Prohibits an employer from monitoring employee electronic mail or other computer records without first advising the employee of the employer's workplace privacy and monitoring policy.

Vetoed by the Governor.

Insurance

Chair: Assemblymember Jack Scott

One key area of committee concern is oversight of the Department of Insurance (DOI). In response to evidence of questionable settlements of claims handling matters related to the Northridge earthquake, the committee launched investigative hearings on the department's enforcement practices and priorities. Testimony from 42 witnesses and five days of hearings resulted in evidence that demonstrated that Mr. Quackenbush and DOI top deputies had subverted the regulatory process, used power to benefit Mr. Quackenbush's political prospects, short-circuited procedures and evaded legislative oversight, misspent money extracted from insurers, and misled the public to avoid responsibility for these actions. Mr. Quackenbush ultimately resigned effective July 10, 2000. The committee adopted its Final Report on Department of Insurance Enforcement Practices and Policies by a unanimous bipartisan vote on August 21, 2000. The report details the committee process, the evidence and the findings. The Report also sets forth recommendations for legislative and administrative action to ensure that the abuses never happen again. The report and hearing transcripts are available through the Assembly Insurance Committee's website.

The committee also addressed issues of longstanding concern related to unemployed and injured workers. In order to redress years without benefit increases, legislation was adopted to increase unemployment insurance, disability insurance and workers' compensation benefits. In light of the renewal of the proof of insurance law and its unfair impact on low-income drivers, the committee adopted a pilot project for low-cost auto insurance, which went into effect July 2000. Finally, the committee responded to consumer protection concerns by adopting comprehensive agent and broker licensing reforms.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 279 (Wayne) Workers' compensation: failure to pay compensation.

Increases penalties for an employer who fails to provide workers' compensation insurance from a misdemeanor punishable by up to six months in the county jail and/or a fine of up to \$1,000, to a misdemeanor punishable by up to one year in a county jail and/or a fine of up to \$10,000.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 481 (Scott) Insurers: unfair claims settlement practices: policyholders.

Provides that in any settlement agreement related to an alleged violation by an insurer of provisions relating to unfair methods of competition and unfair and deceptive acts or practices in the business of insurance, the Insurance Commissioner shall give first priority to policyholders in order to fairly compensate affected insureds.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 539 (Papan) Workers' compensation: cancer: firefighters and peace officers.

Removes the requirement that a firefighter or peace officer prove a reasonable link between a carcinogen and his or her disabling cancer before the cancer is presumed compensable under the workers' compensation system.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 600 (Knox) Insurance claims of Holocaust victims.

Enacts the Holocaust Victim Insurance Relief Act of 1999, which requires the State Insurance Commissioner to establish and maintain a registry regarding insurance policies issued in Europe to victims of the Holocaust during the Nazi period.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 802 (Dutra) Insurance policies: disclosure of finance charges.

Requires every insurance policy, and insurance premium billing statement to disclose the amount of periodic finance charges and any associated annual percentage rate. If the finance charge is a fixed fee, regardless of the amount of the loan on the balance due, the disclosure is not required to include the annual percentage rate associated with those charges.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1050 (Wright) Insurance: fraudulent claims.

Establishes the Organized Crime Prevention and Victim Protection Act of 1999, which increases auto insurance anti-fraud funding, targets fraud control activities, and makes other reforms related to insurance fraud.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1778 (Lowenthal) Motor vehicle replacement parts.

Requires automobile repair facilities to notify customers whether crash parts being used to repair a damaged vehicle are original equipment manufacturer (OEM) parts, or non-OEM parts.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2107 (Scott) Elder abuse.

Makes a number of changes, effective July 1, 2001, in the law with respect to selling annuities and other insurance products to elders and clarifies the definition of "financial abuse" for the purpose of the Elder Abuse and Dependent Civil Protection Act.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2178 (Knox) Workers' compensation: loss control consultation services: Workers' Occupational Safety and Health Education Fund.

Eliminates the requirement that the director of the State Department of Industrial Relations certify loss control consultation services, establishes an ombudsperson to provide information about loss control consultation services, and authorizes the establishment of a worker occupational safety and health training and education program.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2251 (Cox) Insurance: sales: Internet: disclosure.

Requires insurance companies and insurance agents and brokers who advertise on the Internet to disclose their name, state, and business license number.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2297 (Calderon) Insurance: workers' compensation: renewal notice.

Requires an insurer, if the premium charged on a workers' compensation policy is to be increased by 25 percent or more, to provide the policyholder with written notice of a renewal offer 30 days or more before the policy renewal date.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 171 (Escutia) Automobile insurance: lifeline policies.

Establishes within the California Automobile Assigned Risk Plan a low-cost automobile insurance pilot program for the County of Los Angeles. Requires insurers that participate in the California Assigned Risk Plan to also participate in a pilot program established by the Insurance Commissioner for the County of Los Angeles to offer, until January 1, 2004, a low-cost automobile insurance policy. The low-cost policy will provide coverage of \$10,000 for liability for bodily injury or death to one person, and \$3,000 for liability for damage to property and satisfies the financial responsibility laws.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 320 (Solis) Workers' compensation: administration and benefits.

Increases workers' compensation benefits by about 2.5 percent per year, over a six-year period. Provides that a totally dependent widow or widower will receive death benefits until death of the widow or widower, notwithstanding the maximum limitation. Creates a new position of Court Administrator within the Division of Workers' Compensation to oversee the workers' compensation adjudicatory process.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 546 (Solis) Unemployment compensation.

Increases, effective January 1, 2001, the wage replacement rate for lost wages to 45 percent with a maximum weekly benefit of \$300; indexes the maximum weekly benefits amount to 50 percent of the prior year's average weekly wage or \$300, whichever is greater. Effective January 1, 2002, the maximum benefit for new claims increases to \$340 per week or 50 percent of the prior year's average weekly wage, whichever is greater and effective January 1, 2003, the maximum benefit for new claims increases to \$380 per week or 50 percent of the prior year's average weekly wage, whichever is greater.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 656 (Solis) Unemployment disability.

Increases the maximum disability benefit from \$336 to \$490 per week, making State Disability Insurance benefits equal to weekly benefits for workers' compensation temporary disability (WCTD) and indexing the SDI levels to future WCTD increases.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 870 (Vasconcellos) Long-term care insurance.

Makes comprehensive, substantive changes to the long-term care insurance law that would affect individual and group policy benefits, changes requirements for eligibility, and establishes and modifies marketing and disclosure requirements, including, requiring policies and certificates that limit benefits of institutional care to be identified as "Nursing Facility and Residential Care Facility Only" coverage, and requiring that a long-term care policy cover care in a residential care facility.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 898 (Dunn) Long-term care renewal provisions.

Requires long-term care insurance premiums and certain policy conditions to be guaranteed renewable or non-cancelable, and requires prior approval of the Department of Insurance before the insurance can be offered or the rate increased.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 996 (Johnston) Workers' compensation: administration and benefits.

Increases workers' compensation benefits and makes changes in the administration of the workers' compensation system, including: allowing a totally dependent widow/widower to receive death benefits until death; expanding alternative dispute resolution to permit arbitration of any dispute; and expanding the purposes to which Fraud Assessment Fund fees can be used, allowing investigation and prosecution of uninsured employers.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1524 (Figueroa) Insurance: fines and penalties.

Prohibits the Insurance Commissioner from using his or her name, likeness or voice in public outreach efforts funded by proceeds resulting from enforcement actions, and requires public outreach funded by enforcement actions to be germane to the issues raised by the enforcement actions.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1805 (Escutia) Market conduct examinations.

Requires the Department of Insurance to make public, along with any responses from insurers, the examinations of unfair or deceptive practices that are adopted as filed, or as modified or corrected, as well as orders, etc., related to the examinations, and requires that if the exams are terminated or suspended, the State Auditor must examine the insurer file to determine if the examination was properly terminated or suspended.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1820 (Burton) Workers' compensation: cancer: peace officers and safety officers.

Extends the workers' compensation cancer presumption to a member of an arson-investigation unit of a fire department or fire protection agency of a city, county, district or the state, and, a member other than a member of an arson-investigation unit of a fire department or fire protection agency of a city, county, district or the state whose primary duty is the enforcement of laws relating to fire prevention or fire suppression.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1988 (Speier) Insurance fraud.

Enacts the Anti-Auto Theft and Insurance Fraud Act of 2000 designed to reduce auto fraud by increasing insurer and Bureau of Automotive Repair inspections, enhancing penalties, and educating consumers on their rights regarding auto repair, and focusing state resources on problem areas for fraud.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2107 (Speier) Insurance: settlement agreements: administrative.

Permits the Insurance Commissioner (IC) to delegate the power to negotiate terms and conditions of a settlement but requires the IC to approve the settlement and prohibits the IC from requiring the insurer to contribute to a nonprofit entity; requiring the insurer to contribute or transfer funds to any fund other than to the State Treasurer for deposit to the Insurance Fund, directing funds to another person or entity; and, using settlement moneys to produce printed, audio or visual materials using the name, likeness, or voice of the IC for general distribution.

Signed by the Governor.

International Trade and Development

Chair: Assemblymember Sally Havice

Last year, the Committee on International Trade and Development held informational hearings on several significant sectors of the state's economy. The participating sectors were, biotechnology and medical devices, ports and export related transportation, high technology, agriculture, and manufacturing. The focus of these hearings was the public-private sector cooperation to improve California's competitiveness in the international marketplace.

Throughout these hearings the following issues were brought up before the committee:

- **International Trade Awareness**

Background:

Fifty-eight percent of the American people are opposed to International Trade. According to a recent national poll on international trade for *The Wall Street Journal* and NBC News, 58 percent of those polled are opposed to most international trade. However, that same group indicated that they purchase goods and services from all around the world.

Public Policy:

Most of the participants in the hearings agreed that in order to keep California as the seventh largest economy in the world, the state must create educational outreach programs to disseminate additional information on the benefits of international trade.

- **Workforce Development**

Background:

The same poll indicated the majority of respondents replied "the U.S. should not allow more immigrants into the country because they take away jobs that the Americans should have." Although, they agreed on permitting skilled immigrants to move here to fill a gap of trained workers in the computer industry.

According to a recent study for the high-tech industry in the Silicon Valley by A.T. Kearny, a management consulting firm, the incremental cost for the valley's workforce gap is approximately \$3-4 billion annually. The same study indicates that area students, the future workforce, show very little interest overall in high-tech careers. The study cites as cause for low student interest limited knowledge of career opportunities within the industry. As a net result, the majority of Silicon Valley students are not acquiring the necessary skills and education to meet the demands of this growing industry.

Public Policy:

Most of the participants present at the biotechnology and high-tech hearings shared the same view that the general erosion of the state's school system threatens California's ability to maintain its competitiveness in the global marketplace. In order to maintain national leadership

in exports and job creation, as well as to ensure the state's economic growth and global competitiveness, public policy should focus on the coordination of business, higher education, and community collaborative efforts to address the changing needs of California industries.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 61 (Cardoza) Rural Development Export Act of 1999.

Establishes within the California Office of Export Development a rural manufacturing and service export program intended to assist the state's rural business community to become full participants in the global economy.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 80 (Baldwin) Community college facilities: building standards.

Exempts the construction of new California community college (CCC) facilities from the Field Act and instead requires CCC facilities to be constructed pursuant to provisions of the California Building Standards Act.

Held in the Senate.

AB 175 (Robert Pacheco) Overseas trade offices: directors.

Requires the Secretary of Trade and Commerce to provide for all reasonable relocation expenses incurred by an overseas trade office director upon that director's appointment, dismissal, or resignation.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1616 (Havice) Office of Economic Research: duties: tax strategies and international trade.

Requires the Office of Economic Research within the Trade and Commerce Agency to conduct an annual study of other states' tax and international trade strategies for attracting and retaining business.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1617 (Havice) Trade and Commerce Agency: international trade: report and plan.

Requires the Trade and Commerce Agency to review and report on the effectiveness and coordination of the state's international trade programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2772 (Committee on International Trade and Development) Trade and commerce.

Funds a two-year pilot project to create a statewide alliance of public-private trade development agencies.

Held in the Senate.

SB 511 (Alarcon) Enterprise zones.

Authorizes additional criteria upon which an enterprise zone (EZ) may be based; clarifies that joint powers agencies may administer EZ; requires the Trade and Commerce Agency to provide special consideration or bonus points, or both to EZ applications that meet demographic criteria; and clarifies that allowable EZ expansions may cross any jurisdiction boundaries.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 897 (Polanco) California State World Trade Commission.

Changes the scope of the biennial report currently issued by the state World Trade Commission to include topics, including a strategic plan for coordinating and enhancing the state's trade programs. Establishes education, experience, and language requirements for the directors and all professional staff in the state's overseas trade offices.

Vetoed by the Governor.

Judiciary

Chair: Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl

As in past years, the committee was responsible for a large and complex bill load. Under the leadership of its chair, Assemblymember Sheila Kuehl, major reforms were considered in the areas of jury reform, domestic violence prevention, mental health commitment procedures, elder and dependent abuse, patient access to health care, the rights of victims of the Northridge earthquake, and the rights of crime victims - just to name a few.

During this time the committee also fulfilled a number of oversight responsibilities, including participating with the Assembly Housing Committee in reviewing developments in construction defect law, and considering proposals on ways to improve access to affordable housing.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 26 (Migden) Domestic partners.

Establishes a definition for domestic partnerships and creates a statewide domestic partner registry through the Secretary of State's office. Specifies that domestic partnerships are limited to two adults of the same sex; opposite sex couples may apply when one or both adults are 62 years of age or older. Also authorizes state and local government employers to offer health care coverage and other benefits to domestic partners of qualified employees.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 177 (Papan) Filing fee surcharge: children's waiting rooms.

Authorizes the board of supervisors of any county to impose a one-time surcharge of not less than \$2 nor more than \$5 on the filing fees for various civil actions for the purpose of funding a children's waiting room in Superior Court.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 196 (Kuehl) Child support enforcement.

Establishes a Department of Child Support Services to administer all services and perform all functions necessary to establish, collect, and distribute child support. Restructures state's child support enforcement program to significantly increase accountability and responsibility for the program and maximize collection and delivery of child support to the children and families to whom it is owed.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 205 (Leach) Domestic violence: name change.

Requires that a name change of an individual who is currently involved in the Confidentiality of Victims of Domestic Violence Program also be kept confidential.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 403 (Romero) Law enforcement: domestic violence.

Requires law enforcement agencies to provide victims, upon request, copies of police reports relating to an incident of domestic violence. Entitles the victim to one copy free of charge.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 592 (Migden) Jurors: fees.

Requires Judicial Council to conduct a two-year pilot project in at least three counties for juror child and dependent care reimbursement, appropriates \$250,000 for the pilot project and requires Judicial Council to report to the Legislature.

Held in the Senate.

AB 808 (Strom-Martin) Spousal support.

Requires the court, in considering the factor of age and health of the parties when making a permanent spousal support order, specifically to consider emotional distress and other effects resulting from domestic violence perpetrated against the supported party by the supporting party where the court finds documented evidence of a history of domestic violence against the supported party by the supporting party.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 825 (Keeley) Domestic violence: protective and restraining orders.

Improves the efficiency of the Domestic Violence Protective Order Registry operated by the Department of Justice and ensures appropriate enforcement of court-issued protective and restraining orders. Requires that forms used for certain protective and restraining orders be adopted by the Judicial Council and approved by the State Department of Justice.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1380 (Villaraigosa) Liability: health care providers.

Adjusts annually, the cap on non-economic damages contained in the Medical Injury Compensation Reform Act of 1975 (MICRA), to reflect changes in the cost-of-living, and sets forth various legislative findings about the need to reform MICRA.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1814 (Lempert) Jury service: breast-feeding.

Requires the Judicial Council to adopt a rule of court specifically allowing a mother who is breastfeeding a child to postpone jury duty for one year and to ensure that the mother requesting the postponement would not have to appear in court to make this request.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1856 (Kuehl) Harassment: liability of employees.

Expressly provides that employees of any entity covered by the California Fair Employment and Housing Act are personally liable for their acts of harassment, regardless of whether their employer knows or should have known of the conduct and fails to take immediate and appropriate corrective action.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1859 (McClintock) Homeowner associations: assessments.

Protects a homeowner association's regular assessment income from seizure by a judgment creditor of the association "only to the extent that the assessment funds are necessary to provide essential services, such as paying for utilities and insurance."

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1860 (Migden) Confidentiality: news sources: unpublished information.

Provides that no testimony or other evidence given by a journalist under subpoena in a civil or criminal proceeding may be construed as a waiver of the immunity rights provided by the media shield law. Requires, except in exigent circumstances, a journalist who is subpoenaed in any civil or criminal proceeding to be given at least five days' notice by the party issuing the subpoena that his or her appearance will be required.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1987 (Steinberg) Dependent children: siblings.

Requires the juvenile court to consider the existence and nature of sibling relationships in all placement, visitation and permanency hearings.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1995 (Aroner) Child support: amnesty program.

Creates a one-time child support amnesty program to provide individuals with child support arrearages over \$5,000, owed to the state for reimbursement of welfare payments, an opportunity to have all or a portion of the arrearage forgiven.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2000 (Villaraigosa) California Commission on Human Relations.

Creates a statewide human relations commission until January 1, 2006, to foster greater tolerance of diversity in California.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2222 (Kuehl) Civil rights: disability.

Enacts the Prudence Kay Poppink Act. Clarifies the definitions of "mental disability", "physical disability" and "medical condition" for the purposes of California's civil rights laws, limits an employer's ability to require medical or psychological examinations or make certain medical or disability-related inquiries; and requires an employer to engage in a good faith, interactive process to determine reasonable accommodations for a disabled employee or applicant.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2418 (Migden) Jurors: eligibility.

Prohibits the exclusion of individuals from jury service based on their sexual orientation. Also, provides that a party may not use a peremptory challenge to remove a prospective juror merely because he or she is a member of an identifiable group distinguished on racial, religious, ethnic, sexual orientation, gender or similar grounds.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 26 (Escutia) Employment: age discrimination.

States the Legislature's rejection of a California appellate court case, Marks v. Lorel, and declares that the Fair Employment and Housing Act age discrimination law contemplates disparate impact cases as well as individual disparate treatment cases. Further declares that salary may be an impermissible standard for employment termination decisions if such a basis would disparately affect older workers.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 209 (Burton) Deceased personalities.

Enacts the Astaire Celebrity Image Protection Act to provide greater protections to the heirs of deceased celebrities by broadening the right to publicity that is descendible to them.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1237 (Escutia) Insurance: claims: dispute resolutions.

Enacts the "Fair Insurance Responsibility Act of 2000". Reinstates the right of consumers to sue insurance companies when they act in bad faith by refusing to pay valid insurance claims in a timely manner. Provides that an insurer shall act in good faith toward and deal fairly with third-party claimants. If an insurer engages in unfair claims settlement practices with a third-party claimant, the claimant generally has the right to assert a cause of action against the insurer.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1318 (Alpert) Public records: confidentiality.

Extends the protections provided by the current "Address Confidentiality for Victims of Domestic Violence" program to victims of stalking and revises notification procedures relating to termination of certification as a program participant.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1340 (Solis) Domestic violence courts.

Establishes the California Domestic Violence Court Task Force, charged with creating a set of model guidelines for establishing and operating domestic violence courts throughout the state.

A report and recommendations for model guidelines must be submitted to the Judicial Council and the Legislature by March 1, 2002.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1565 (Schiff) Property of felons: involuntary trust.

Intended to close a gap in California's "Son of Sam" law that allows a convicted felon to profit from the sales of the felon's personal memorabilia when that sale is carried out on his behalf by a representative. Expands California's "Son of Sam" law to create an involuntary (or constructive) trust upon profits of any memorabilia or other thing sold or transferred by a representative of the felon or a profiteer of the felony.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1745 (Burton) Landlord-tenant.

Provides, until January 1, 2006, tenants with additional notice of annual rent increases greater than 10 percent.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1899 (Burton) Northridge earthquake of 1994.

Provides victims of the 1994 Northridge earthquake an additional year to file claims for their quake-related damages.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2047 (Polanco) Civil rights: outreach.

Authorizes state and local agencies to engage in outreach programs to increase participation by California's small business sector and increase diversity in state contracting and procurement.

Vetoed by the Governor.

Labor and Employment

Chair: Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg

During the 1999-2000 Session the Assembly Committee on Labor and Employment approved legislation to restore for California workers the right to daily overtime compensation, which had been repealed by the prior administration. The legislation establishes a basic statutory framework to protect workers in the future, adds new flexibility for employees and employers, and leaves discretion for additional issues to be developed by the Industrial Welfare Commission.

The committee focused significant attention on issues involving the underground economy, including violations of wage and hour, employees' safety and payroll reporting. The committee viewed such violations as harmful to the workers involved, to legitimate businesses that compete fairly in California, and to the taxpayers. The committee approved legislation addressing these concerns in the garment manufacturing industry and to improve enforcement of wage and hour laws generally. It heard testimony concerning underground economy activities by some employers in other industries including residential construction, horseracing, and agriculture. It approved legislation to strengthen enforcement of worker safety laws.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 60 (Knox) Employment: overtime.

Enacts the Eight-Hour-Day Restoration and Workplace Flexibility Act of 1999, establishing a framework for the payment of daily overtime compensation: time and one-half pay after eight hours of daily work; personal time off for a personal obligation of an employee which may be made up during a workweek without payment of overtime compensation within limits; and, the adoption through an employee election of an alternative work week schedule.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 109 (Knox) Employment: sick leave.

Requires an employer who provides sick leave for employees to permit an employee to use the sick leave to attend to the illness of a child, parent, or spouse of the employee. Provides employees the option to use sick leave for unexpected, short-term situations that may not constitute a "serious" health condition, and not be required to take more than needed or risk losing their jobs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 442 (Cedillo) State funds: use to discourage unionization.

Prohibits any recipient of state funds or resources from using them to discourage unionization by that recipients' employees or any other employees and establishes a procedure to enforce the prohibition. This bill is intended to require employers to their own money, rather than state funds, to fight unionization.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 542 (Reyes) Employment Development Department: federal funds: employment service program administrative costs.

Appropriates \$1.867 million of Federal Social Security Act Section 903 Reed Act funds from the Unemployment Trust Fund to the Unemployment Administration Fund. Authorizes the appropriated funds to be expended for support of the State Employment Development Department employment service program administrative costs following a severe freeze damaging the citrus crop in the Valley.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 633 (Steinberg) Labor: garment manufacturing.

Streamlines the enforcement procedures of wage and hour abuses in the garment industry. Designed to stem a large and growing underground economy of garment industry employers who are chronic violators of wage and hour, safety, and tax laws. Makes all manufacturers liable for the guaranteed wages, including civil penalties, of the entity with whom they have contracted to make garments.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 643 (Wesson) Job training: California YouthBuild Program.

Establishes a YouthBuild Program within the Employment Development Department to provide grants to organizations which employ and train disadvantaged youth in conjunction with the construction or rehabilitation of housing for low-income populations.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 850 (Torlakson) Amusement rides: safety.

Establishes a program for regulation of permanent amusement rides, including the adoption of regulations for installation, maintenance, operation and inspections of rides, record-keeping, accident reporting, and financial responsibility requirements.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 884 (Kuehl) Advance-fee talent services.

Regulates advance-fee talent services, including the contents of contracts with artists, and the posting of surety bond. Establishes some regulation advance-fee talent services, including mandatory disclosure and dispute resolutions clauses for contracts with artists, and the posting of \$10,000 surety bond. This bill seeks to ensure that actors breaking into the business know whether they are dealing with a reputable artist's manager.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 931 (Calderon) Electricians: apprenticeship standards.

Establishes minimum standards for training, competency, and certification of electricians.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1127 (Steinberg) Employee safety: violations.

Increases the civil and criminal penalties for violations of statutes and regulations regarding worker safety. Increases penalties for repeated violations or failure to comply to up to one year in county jail and/or a \$15,000 fine.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1268 (Kuehl) Labor disputes.

Makes various changes regarding liability and remedies available in disputes that arise out of labor conflicts. Provides that no officer or member of any association or organization, and no association or organization participating or interested in a labor dispute must be held responsible or liable for the unlawful acts of individual officers, members, or agents except upon clear proof of actual participation in or actual authorization of those acts.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1338 (Reyes) Farm labor contractors: licenses.

Increases farm labor contractor wage surety bonds and license fees; provides continuing education for farm labor contractors; and enhances examination and enforcement procedures.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1395 (Correa) Public works: prevailing wages.

Requires the Division of Labor Standards Enforcement to protect the confidentiality of any employee who reports a violation regarding public works projects. This bill will protect from employer retaliation employees making prevailing wage complaints. Current law protects the confidentiality of employees who file complaints in other labor enforcement areas; prevailing wage complaints should be treated no differently.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1411 (Longville) Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act.

Establishes the Firefighters Procedural Bill of Rights Act, permitting firefighters to engage in political activity and requiring certain procedures and conditions for the investigation and interrogation of firefighters. Provides due process protections analogous to those provided to peace officers by the Peace Officers Bill of Rights.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1541 (Keeley) Employment discrimination: religious entities.

Narrows the current exemption from the Fair Employment and Housing Act (FEHA) for nonprofit health care providers with religious affiliations by making FEHA applicable to persons employed to perform duties, other than religious duties, in a religious association or corporation organized to provide health care that is not restricted to members of the religion that established the association or corporation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1652 (Steinberg) Labor: violations.

Improves the enforcement procedures of wage and hour laws under the Labor Commissioner. This is a companion bill to SB 633, both of which are intended to address serious repeat violators of wage and safety laws meant to protect employees.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1889 (Cedillo) State funds: unionization.

Prohibits public employers or state contractors from using state funds to discourage or encourage unionization.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2142 (Keeley) Employment and housing discrimination: gender .

Provides that for the anti-discrimination provisions of the Fair Employment and Housing Act, the term "sex" includes a person's gender, and "gender" is defined to mean a victim's actual sex or the perception of a victim's identity, appearance, or behavior, regardless of whether different from that traditionally associated with the victim's sex at birth.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2357 (Honda) Victims of Domestic Violence Employment Leave Act.

Prohibits employers from discharging or discriminating against any employee who takes time off work to receive social services related to domestic violence.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2410 (Machado) Wages: state employees.

Requires state employees to be paid twice monthly. Requires state employees who are discharged to be paid immediately and requires overtime to be paid in a timely manner.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2509 (Steinberg) Employment: remedies for employment law violations.

An omnibus labor standards enforcement measure that makes changes to rights, remedies and procedures. Among other things, it requires that the legal rate of interest on due and unpaid wages be ten percent; increases civil penalties and damages for code violations; codifies that employers must provide a 10-minute rest period every four hours and a 30-minute meal period every five hours. If the employer fails to comply, employees must be paid for one hour of wages for each work day in violation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2827 (Cardoza) Employment Development Department: Jobs for California Graduates Program.

Creates a regional program for at-risk youth to complete secondary education and transition into work.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2862 (Romero) Farm labor contractors.

Establishes farm labor contractors license verification guidelines and increases criminal penalties for specific repeated convictions. Establishes a farm labor contractors enforcement unit within the Department of Industrial Relations.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 16 (Burton) Public works: prevailing wages.

Specifies the methodology for determining prevailing wage rates for public works projects.

Requires the Director of the Department of Industrial Relations to establish as the prevailing wage either the single rate being paid to a majority of workers, or if there is no single rate, the single rate being paid to the greatest number of workers (the modal rate).

Signed by the Governor.

SB 88 (Sher) Overtime compensation.

Exempts certain professional employees in the computer software and nursing professions from requirements of premium overtime pay, if employees are highly skilled, proficient in theoretical and practical application of highly specialized information to computer systems analysis, programming, and software engineering, and if the hourly rate of pay is not less than \$41.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 945 (Vasconcellos) Employment.

Exempts Americorp participants from state labor and unemployment insurance laws. Requires participants to be notified by their employer of any requirement to work in excess of eight hours per day, or 40 hours per week, prior to the commencement of their service. Prohibits discrimination against participants for refusing to work overtime for a legitimate reason.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1327 (Escutia) Employees: inspection of personnel records by employees.

Expands the law governing the inspection of personnel records by employees to include allowing public and private employees to place materials in their personnel files, and requiring private employers to permit employees to inspect their personnel files with no loss of compensation.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1822 (Bowen) Employee computer records.

Prohibits an employer from monitoring employee electronic mail or other computer records without first advising the employee of the employer's workplace privacy and monitoring policy.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1877 (Alarcon) Displaced janitors.

Enacts the Displaced Janitor Opportunity Act. Provides continued employment for janitors who are laid off when their employers' contract is terminated. Defines contractor to mean any person who employs 25 or more individuals.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1999 (Burton) Public works.

Provides that "architectural, engineering, and inspection services" must be included in the definition of "public works" for the purpose of determining the applicability of prevailing wage requirements.

Signed by the Governor.

Local Government

Chair: Assemblymember John Longville

The Assembly Local Government Committee addressed significant issues in the three primary areas of its jurisdiction: land use, local government finance, and special districts. The committee was involved throughout the lengthy process around AB 2838 (Hertzberg), a comprehensive revision of the statute governing the creation and expansion of new cities. The committee also passed bills that proposed to implement policies to counteract urban sprawl and promote smart growth, an issue of growing importance to more and more Californians. (The committee's incoming Chair, Patricia Wiggins, is the founder of the Legislative Smart Growth Caucus.)

In the area of local finance, the committee passed AB 1195 (Longville) and SB 1637 (Burton, both of which proposed a cap on the so-called "ERAF shift" of property tax revenues away from local governments to the state, in order to return money to cities and counties for them to use to address their own needs as they see fit. The committee also passed AB 1396 (Villaraigosa), and then played a key part in the conference committee that made that bill the vehicle for the allocation of over \$200 million to local governments. In the area of special districts, the committee passed AB 1794 (Calderon) and AB 1834 (Havice), which addressed the serious problems with the Water Replenishment District of Southern California pointed out by the State Auditor.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 112 (Florez) Local government: tobacco settlement.

Requires the treasurer to establish a special fund for deposit of local tobacco settlement revenues and authorizes local governments to assign or sell such revenues.

Held in the Senate.

AB 185 (Hertzberg) Local government reorganization.

Requires that, if a local agency formation commission approves a proposal for a special reorganization that includes the incorporation of a city with a population of more than one million, the resolution must specify that the legislative body of the city must consist of an even number of members, with at least 12 elected by districts.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 708 (Vincent) Parks and recreation: Youth Prevention and Enrichment Opportunity

Act: funding grants.

Establishes the Youth Prevention and Enrichment Opportunity Act, for the purpose of funding grants for youth recreation and enrichment programs and facilities.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1219 (Kuehl) Land use: water supplies.

Prohibits approval of a tentative or parcel map, or a development agreement for a subdivision of property of more than 200 residential units unless the local legislative body finds that a sufficient, reliable water supply is available to meet the reasonable needs of the project.

Held in the Senate.

AB 1396 (Villaraigosa) Local government finance.

Makes a one-time appropriation of \$212 million to local governments for fiscal relief based on a specific allocation formula. Generally, \$200 million is allocated to cities, counties, and special districts based on last year's AB 1661 (Torlakson) formula, while \$10 million goes to counties based on population and \$2 million to independent recreation and park and library special districts throughout the State.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1834 (Havice) Water Replenishment District of Southern California.

Requires the State Auditor to perform an audit with regard to operations and management of the Water Replenishment District. Prohibits the district from incurring indebtedness on or after January 1, 2001. Requires the district to pay for any capital project undertaken by the district with existing reserves or with funds generated from the imposition of the water replenishment assessment.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1968 (Wiggins) Land use: regional impacts.

Creates the Local Regional Planning Support Fund and expresses legislative intent to appropriate \$25 million to that fund in 2001-02. From this fund, the Governor's Office of Planning and Research would award grants to cities and counties which voluntarily agree to adopt a plan that addresses regional issues.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2486 (Washington) Public libraries: resources for youths.

Directs the State Librarian to award grants on a competitive basis to public libraries for the support of the Youth Mentoring and Safe Communities Grant Program. Appropriates \$2,500,000 from the General Fund for these purposes and requires an independent evaluation and a report by January 1, 2005.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2556 (Hertzberg) School and community partnership collaborations.

Requires the State Department of Education to establish the School Community Partnership Program to ensure that all children and youths aged 5 to 18 years, inclusive, have access to quality before-school, after-school, and out-of-school programs.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2774 (Corbett) Local Government General Plan Update and Sustainable Communities Grant Program.

Appropriates \$10 million for grants to cities and counties to update their general plans and coordinate land use, housing, and transportation efforts.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2838 (Hertzberg) Local agency formation commissions.

Comprehensively revises the Cortese-Knox Local Government Reorganization Act of 1985, the law governing local government boundary changes through Local Agency Formation Commissions established in each county, to incorporate recommendations made by the Commission on Local Governance in the 21st Century in its report, "Growth Within Bounds."

Signed by the Governor.

SB 3 (Rainey) California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000.

Enacts the California Reading and Literacy Improvement and Public Library Construction and Renovation Bond Act of 2000 to provide \$350 million in general obligation bonds for public library construction and renovation.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1637 (Burton) Property tax revenue shifts: limitation.

Caps the shift of property tax revenues from counties to the Educational Revenue Augmentation Fund over a three-year period.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 2095 (Johnston) Water Recycling in Landscaping Act.

Creates a model recycled water ordinance to be adopted by local governments whose primary purpose is to require new industrial, commercial, and residential subdivisions to be built with separate recycled water plumbing systems to provide water for golf courses, parks, and other uses where potable water is not required.

Signed by the Governor.

Natural Resources

Chair: Assemblymember Howard Wayne

The 1999-2000 legislative session highlighted the breadth of issues assigned to the Natural Resources Committee and helped maintain California as the nation's leader in environmental protection. As examples, the committee approved legislation for the nation's first \$2 billion parks bond, expanded and extended the most comprehensive "bottle bill" in the country, and advanced the nation's first bill to protect the health of children from various air pollutants.

Chaired by Howard Wayne, the committee also passed major legislation protecting the coast from polluted runoff, approved funding to restore protected salmon runs, and endorsed legislation defining and implementing environmental justice legislation at the state level. The committee created a San Gabriel River and Mountains Conservancy and a Baldwin Hills Conservancy. It supported successful legislation adding the South Yuba River to the California list of "wild and scenic" rivers, and it passed major legislation dealing with the pervasive problem of waste tires.

Additionally, the committee helped expand civil and administrative penalties for illegal timber harvesting, established a register of reductions undertaken by California companies to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and worked on several bills to preserve California's agricultural land and open space in light of the expanding population of the state.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 64 (Ducheny) Public beach restoration.

Provides \$35 million annually for three years to the Department of Boating and Waterways to fund sand replenishment and beach restoration projects.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 75 (Strom-Martin) State agency recycling: waste diversion: community service districts.

Requires each state agency or large state facility to develop an integrated waste management plan by July 1, 2000, and divert at least 25 percent of its solid waste from landfills by January 1, 2002, and 50 percent by January 1, 2004.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 492 (Wayne) Coastal resources: public access.

Prohibits the transfer or sale of coastal land from the state to private entities if the land is located between the first public road and the sea, with an existing or potential public accessway to or from the sea, or the California Coastal Commission has formally designated it as part of the California Coastal Trail unless the State retains an interest in the land adequate to provide access to or along the sea.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 511 (Alquist) Taxation.

Establishes the rural investment sales tax exemption for eligible persons that make a new investment of at least \$150 million and employ at least 500 new full-time employees in a California county with an average annual unemployment rate three points or more above the statewide average for the most recent calendar year.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 642 (Lempert) Wetlands mitigation banking.

Requires the State Department of Fish and Game, on or before January 1, 2002, to establish a data base of all existing and operating wetlands mitigation banks that sell credits to the public.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 680 (Lempert) Oil spill prevention: nonmarine waters.

Provides that the fines and penalties provisions of the Lempert-Keene-Seastrand Oil Spill Prevention and Response Act are extended to cover all "waters of the state."

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 989 (Lowenthal) Coastal development.

Authorizes the executive director of the California Coastal Commission to issue and file a notice of violation when property is developed in violation of the Coastal Act.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1055 (Villaraigosa) Playground equipment and facilities.

Establishes a grant program to assist local agencies with the costs of upgrading or improving unsafe public playgrounds and requires that 50 percent the funds be expended on recycled materials.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1775 (Lowenthal) Petroleum coke dust.

Reduces the emission of airborne particulate matter from the storage, handling, and transportation of petroleum coke, a residue produced in the oil refining process which consists of fine, blackened dust-like particles which pose a public health threat and can be linked to elevated levels of respiratory illness, in the South Coast Air Quality Management District.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1946 (Wayne) Public beaches: survey.

Requires local health officers to submit a monthly survey to the State Water Resources Control Board (SWRCB) detailing information on beach postings and closures due to failure to meet bacteriological standards. Requires SWRCB to establish a specific format for the surveys, make the information available to the public monthly, and publish an annual statewide report.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2117 (Wayne) Watershed protection.

Requires the Resources Agency and the State Water Resources Control Board to evaluate three watershed protection projects and determine the effectiveness of existing law and the level of cooperation between state, federal and local entities, as well as stakeholder groups, landowners, and environmental organizations, in protecting California's watersheds.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2471 (Wayne) State Environmental Goals and Policy Report.

Expands the data in the quadrennial State Environmental Goals and Policy Report to include readily available data from public agencies, segregated by specific regions of the state and to present readily available data in numeric and graphic form concerning specific topics, including total population, threatened and endangered species, emissions of air pollutants, impaired water bodies, drinking water testing by water district, and total vehicle miles traveled per capita.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2478 (Strom-Martin) Forest resources.

Requires the forest resources improvement programs to emphasize the educational and financial assistance components. Expands the percent of funds that can go to habitat improvement projects, and defines forest land conservation measures that are eligible under the program.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2553 (Hertzberg) Recycling: education grants.

Requires the California Integrated Waste Management Board, in consultation with the State Department of Education, to establish a grant program and provide incentives for public schools to implement source reduction and recycling programs.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2872 (Shelley) Resources and environmental protection.

Omnibus environmental protection trailer bill that, among other things:

- Establishes the Biomass-to-Energy Incentive Grant Program;
- Creates a child specific cancer health risk assessment under the CalEPA;
- Requires the Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessments to conduct a review of the environmental health conditions in portable classrooms; and
- Requires the State Water Resources Control Board to develop a comprehensive coastal water resources monitoring program for fish and shellfish.

Provides \$500,000 to begin administrative implementation of brownfields.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 89 (Escutia) Environmental quality: minority and low-income populations.

Requires CalEPA to convene a Working Group on Environmental Justice, comprised of the directors of all CalEPA departments and the director of the Office of Planning & Research, to address the treatment of minority and low-income communities regarding exposure to environmental hazards and enforcement of environmental laws.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 332 (Sher) Beverage containers.

Substantially improves recycling rates by expanding the scope of the state's Bottle Bill program to include more than two billion glass, plastic and metal containers sold in California not currently in the program, and provides additional funding to expand curbside recycling.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 496 (Sher) Wild and scenic rivers: South Yuba River.

Includes in the state Wild and Scenic River system 39 miles of the South Yuba River from Lang Crossing to its confluence with Kentucky Creek.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 876 (Escutia) Waste and used tires.

Requires any person who stockpiles waste tires to clean up those waste tires or abate their effects, or take other remedial action, in the case of threatened pollution or nuisance. Revises the procedures for the suspension, denial, or revocation of a waste tire facility permit. Raises the \$0.25 fee per tire to \$1 per tire, reducing the fee to \$0.75 per tire in 2007.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1832 (Chesbro) Forest legacy program.

Creates the California Forest Legacy Program, which allows the acquisition of conservation easements from willing landowners in order to conserve, or prevent the development of, private forest lands. Creates the California Forest Legacy Fund to implement the program.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1865 (Perata) Air pollution: civil and criminal penalties.

Increases, in most cases, the existing civil and criminal penalties for air quality violations to make them similar to penalties for water pollution and hazardous waste law and to reorganize the air quality provisions so that like violations appear in the same code sections of state law.

Signed by the Governor.

Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security

Chair: Assemblymember Lou Correa

Under the strong leadership of its chair, Assemblymember Lou Correa, the Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security was able to help get major benefit increases passed this session for California's public employees and to make significant improvements regarding public employee rights and protections. The committee also assisted in the passage of measures that will improve health care and retirement benefits for teachers to make the profession more appealing and to encourage more individuals to become teachers.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 429 (Correa) State Teachers' Retirement System: supplemental benefits.

Increases the State Teachers' Retirement System monthly allowance amounts payable to retired members and nonmember spouses, disabled members, and beneficiaries payable commencing on or before July 1, 2001, and provides additional supplemental increases to those benefits to preserve their purchasing power.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 821 (Committee on Public Employees, Retirement and Social Security) Retirement.

Changes the period to be used for computing "final compensation" for State Teachers' Retirement System benefits to the highest compensation earnable by a member during a consecutive 12-month period.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1009 (Correa) Public employees' retirement: purchasing power protection.

Increases from 75 percent to 80 percent the purchasing power protection provided to retirees of local contracting agencies of the Public Employees' Retirement System.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1412 (Wildman) Public employees.

Prohibits any state or local governmental employee from interfering with the right of any person to disclose an improper governmental activity to an investigating committee of the Legislature.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1509 (Machado) State teachers' retirement: Defined Benefit Supplement Program.

Creates the Defined Benefit Supplement Program for all State Teachers' Retirement System (STRS) members, that diverts 25 percent of STRS contributions, or 2 percent of payroll, into a tax deferred account that will be available to the teacher upon retirement in a lump sum payment or as an annuity.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1852 (Longville) Meyers-Milias-Brown Act.

Makes changes to the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act, which governs meeting and conferring for public employees. Restores the balance of power in negotiations by prohibiting a public agency from implementing a memorandum of understanding when it has reached an impasse in collective bargaining and is not required to proceed to arbitration.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1937 (Correa) Retirement: benefits.

Makes various benefit increases available on an optional basis to the 20 counties operating retirement systems under the County Employees' Retirement Law of 1937 and contracting agencies of the Public Employees' Retirement System.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1955 (Migden) Judges' retirement: extended service incentive program.

Establishes the Extended Service Incentive Program to provide enhanced retirement benefits for those judges who continue in service beyond retirement age. It provides an incentive for longer service from our most experienced judges, eliminates a financial penalty, provides an attractive alternative to private judging, and offers a creative financial reward that does not add to the state's costs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2383 (Keeley) Public employee health benefits: covered employees: retiree health benefits.

Authorizes the State Teachers' Retirement System to become a contracting agency for retired members or retired classified employees. Prohibits a school or agency from maintaining another health benefits plan unless it complies with the provisions of the Public Employees' Medical and Hospital Care Act and is equally available to its retired or active members and their families.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2472 (Romero) Public school employees: disclosure of improper governmental activities.

Establishes the Reporting by Public School Employees of Improper Governmental Activities Act and the Reporting by Community College Employees of Improper Governmental Activities Act, and provides protections to public school employees who report improper governmental activities.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2701 (Jackson) State employees: medical examinations.

Provides privacy protections for state employees concerning the use of medical examinations in employment actions by requiring that a decision to order a medical examination be based on a reasonable factual belief that the employee is medically unable to perform the work of his or her present position, giving the employee at least 15 days' written notice of the exam, and not requiring an employee to submit to more than two medical exams in any 12-month period.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 402 (Burton) Employer-employee relations: law enforcement officers and firefighters.

Provides final and binding arbitration of any matter in dispute between any public employer in California and employee organizations representing its firefighters or law enforcement employees.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 645 (Burton) Higher education labor relations.

Amends the Higher Education Employee Relations Act to require the implementation of a mandatory "fair share" or "agency shop" fee for all employees of the California State University and University of California system who are members of a collective bargaining unit.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 739 (Solis) Local public employees: agency shop arrangement and the Public Employment Relations Board.

Revises the Meyers-Milias-Brown Act (MMBA), the bargaining and employee relations law governing cities, counties and special districts in California. Transfers jurisdiction for the resolution of unfair labor practice charges and representation disputes under the MMBA to the Public Employment Relations Board. Authorizes an agency shop agreement to take effect either through a negotiated agreement between a public agency and a recognized employee organization or without a negotiated agreement if a petition is signed by 30 percent of the employees in the applicable bargaining unit and the agency shop agreement is approved by a majority of the employees.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1378 (Brulte) Public employees: supervisory and managerial salary differential.

Requires that all state supervisory and managerial employees be paid at a salary range that is higher than the salary range of the highest paid subordinate over which the supervisor or manager has authority.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1435 (Johnston) Teachers' health benefits: Medicare premiums.

Establishes the Teachers' Health Benefits Fund which requires CalSTRS to pay the Medicare premiums of CalSTRS retirees who are not covered by Social Security and need to pay the premium to establish Medicare eligibility.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1960 (Burton) Public school employee labor relations.

Amends the employer-employee relations act relative to public school and community college employees to require the implementation of a mandatory "fair share" or "agency shop" fee, known as "organizational security," for all employees of the public schools and the community colleges who are the members of a bargaining unit.

Signed by the Governor.

Public Safety

Chair: Assemblymember Carl Washington

Under the leadership of Chairman Carl Washington, the Assembly Committee on Public Safety passed a number of significant bills that will make California safer for all its residents.

Gun Control

The most important accomplishment of the session was enacting a comprehensive package of common-sense gun control legislation. The committee passed bills to require safety devices on all firearms manufactured or sold in California, limit to one per month the number of handguns that a person may apply to purchase, enact comprehensive regulations of gun shows, prohibit the sale of unsafe handguns that do not meet stringent manufacturing safety standards, and clarify the ban on military-style assault weapons.

Crime Prevention

The committee passed legislation to prohibit school districts from employing or retaining persons convicted of distributing or possessing child pornography. School boards will also be required to immediately place on compulsory leave any employee charged with these offenses. The committee also enacted legislation requiring the California Department of Corrections and the Board of Prison Terms to notify local law enforcement when any person convicted of a sex offense against children is released on parole.

To guarantee safe and affordable housing for all, the committee passed legislation permitting local law enforcement to provide criminal history background check information to local public housing authorities for the purpose of screening prospective Section 8 tenants.

To develop crime control techniques in the Central Valley, the committee passed legislation establishing the Rural Crime Prevention Demonstration Project. The Project is designed to strengthen the ability of law enforcement in rural areas to combat agricultural-based crimes.

DNA identification technology is the most important scientific advancement in the field of criminal justice since the advent of fingerprint comparisons. Forensic DNA evidence can convict the guilty and free the innocent. The committee passed three measures that are important steps in taking full advantage of this emerging technology by extending the statute of limitations for the prosecution of sex offenses to within ten years of the commission of the crime or within one year of the date on which DNA testing links a suspect to the offense; allowing the Department of Justice to compare a suspect's DNA from a specific case against the DNA data bank of unsolved crimes; and authorizing the court to order post-conviction DNA testing to evaluate claims of innocence by persons incarcerated in prison.

Identity Theft

Law enforcement estimates that one out of every four Americans has been victimized by the rapidly growing identity theft when someone uses personal information of another to make unauthorized purchases or transactions. Oftentimes the victim is completely unaware of the crime until they are denied credit, or discover an empty bank account. Because identity theft is difficult to investigate and to prosecute, the Assembly responded to the growing incidence of

this crime by proposing to establish a law enforcement database of identity theft victims, create an expedited judicial process enabling victims to clear their names, establish two pilot projects to investigate crimes of identity theft, and assist victims in purging false information from credit records.

Juvenile Justice Prevention

Recognizing that public safety is enhanced by a comprehensive strategy of prevention, enforcement, reducing delinquency and crime and increasing prosecutions, the Assembly appropriated \$242.6 million for local law enforcement programs: \$121.3 million to the Citizens Option for Public Safety program to support local law enforcement and \$121.3 million to local juvenile justice programs that have a proven track record.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 106 (Scott) Firearms: safety devices.

Requires the Attorney General to develop and implement minimum safety standards for firearms safety devices and mandates that all firearms manufactured, or sold or transferred by a licensed firearms dealer in California be accompanied by an approved firearms safety device and bear a safety warning label.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 110 (Baugh) Miscarriage of justice: compensation.

Appropriates \$620,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Justice to recompense Kevin Lee Green for a miscarriage of justice and wrongful incarceration by the state. Provides that this compensation is tax exempt, and applies this provision to taxable years beginning on or after January 1, 1999.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 157 (Reyes) Crime prevention.

Continues and expands the Rural Crime Prevention Program and states legislative intent that \$3.5 million be appropriated in the annual Budget Act for the purposes of this bill.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 182 (Ackerman) Invasion of privacy: concealed cameras.

Makes it a misdemeanor to secretly photograph or videotape under or through the clothing of another person under circumstances in which the victim has a reasonable expectation of privacy.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 202 (Knox) Firearms.

Prohibits any person from applying for more than one concealable firearm within a 30-day period, and no delivery must be made to any person who has made an application to purchase more than one concealable firearm within 30 days.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 208 (Knox) Murder: punishment.

Requires that a person who commits first-degree murder be punished by life imprisonment without the possibility of parole if the victim was intentionally killed because of the victim's actual or perceived disability, gender, or sexual orientation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 221 (Wildman) Lasers: obstructing a peace officer.

Extends to the use of laser pointers the misdemeanor penalty of aiming or pointing a laser scope at another person in a threatening manner. Also imposes a maximum penalty of six months in jail for the threatening use of a laser pointer or laser scope when the victim is a police officer.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 234 (Lowenthal) Criminal history information: access by public housing authority.

Authorizes law enforcement to give criminal history information from the California Law Enforcement Telecommunications System to a city, county or other local public agency that administers Section 8 housing, to be used for screening prospective participants.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 295 (Corbett) Firearms: gun show promoters.

Proposes changes to the laws regulating gun shows, gun show promoters and vendors. Obligates the promoter to notify law enforcement regarding details of the gun show. Requires each gun show to have a "security plan", a minimum \$1 million insurance policy, and signs posted with information for attendees. Creates the Gun Show Enforcement and Security Act of 2000.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 457 (Scott) School employees: sex offense: definition.

Adds electronic and computer-based sex offenses to the list of sex offenses that prohibit school districts from employing persons who have committed such crimes. Prohibits local education agencies from issuing temporary certificates to applicants with revoked or suspended teaching credentials.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1050 (Wright) Insurance: fraudulent claims.

Establishes the Organized Crime Prevention and Victim Protection Act of 1999, which increases auto insurance anti-fraud funding and targets fraud control activities.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1142 (Soto) Firearms: criminal storage: minors.

Expands the existing penalties for criminal storage of a firearm to include such storage when a minor is under 18 years old (currently sixteen). Creates a new penalty for criminal storage of any firearm, whether unloaded or not, when no injury occurs but the minor brings the firearm to any public or private K-12 school or school event.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1151 (Leach) Vessels.

Enhances penalties for vessel operators involved in boating accidents resulting in personal injury.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1284 (Jackson) Stalking.

Adds felony witness intimidation and terrorist threats to the provision in current law that prohibits persons arrested for offenses from being released on their own recognizance or on bail in an amount more or less than the bail schedule without a hearing in open court. Requires the county sheriff to give notice of the release on bail of any person arrested on a charge of stalking to the prosecuting attorney's office.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1391 (Hertzberg) Forensic laboratories.

Creates the "Hertzberg-Polanco Forensic Laboratories Construction Act" which authorizes the construction and remodeling of forensic laboratories. Provides for a revenue bond in an amount not to exceed \$220 million to finance construction, renovation, and infrastructure costs for state and local forensic laboratories.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1422 (Torlakson) Reporting of crimes.

Makes it a six-month misdemeanor with a \$1,500 fine for a person who witnesses the following to fail to report the incident to the authorities: an assault of a child fourteen years of age or younger; or, the use of force, violence, duress, menace or fear of immediate and unlawful bodily injury on the victim in order to willfully and lewdly commit any lewd and lascivious act upon the body of a child who is under the age of 14 years with the intent of appealing to the sexual desires of that person or the child.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1458 (Wiggins) Sexually violent predators: treatment programs: commitment petitions.

Requires the Department of Corrections to establish and operate a sex offender inmate treatment program and revises the definition of "sexually violent predator" and "predatory."

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1535 (Florez) Prison construction.

Authorizes the construction of the Delano II state prison, using lease-purchase financing arrangements. Provides that Delano II must not be occupied until the State Department of Corrections has made available a total of 9,000 in-prison therapeutic bed slots. The bill appropriates \$24 million for site acquisition and required planning and reports for Delano II, and appropriates \$15.5 million for new parole officers.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1540 (Vincent) Animals: willful abandonment.

Makes it a misdemeanor to abandon any animal by expanding the existing law that prohibits the abandonment of any domestic dog or cat.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1586 (Florez) Public safety officers: Procedural Bill of Rights.

Allows a peace officer to prohibit a public agency from posting his or her photograph on the Internet.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1587 (Scott) Firearms.

Creates a meaningful judicial hearing to determine whether a person formerly subject to a 72-hour "5150" hold under the Lanterman-Petris-Short Act as a danger to self or others may be prohibited from possessing a firearm. Establishes procedures to be followed prior to and relative to the hearing.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1727 (Reyes) Rural crime prevention. Extends the operation of the Rural Crime Prevention Program through January 1, 2002, and extends the deadline of the Legislative Analyst's cost-benefit analysis from December 2000 to December 2001.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1742 (Correa) Limitations of Actions.

Permits the prosecution of certain sex offenses within one year of the date on which the identity of the suspect is conclusively established by DNA testing, or within 10 years of the offense, whichever is longer notwithstanding any other limitation of time.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1819 (Shelley) Elder abuse.

Expands current training received by law enforcement agencies to include training in the physical and psychological abuse of elder and dependent adults. Expands the definition of "mental suffering" and requires the State Attorney General's office to establish a media campaign addressing the issue.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1862 (Torlakson) Identity theft: data base.

Requires the Department of Justice to establish, effective September 1, 2001, a database of victims of identity theft and to maintain a toll-free number to assist victims in clearing their names in criminal records, public records, employment histories and credit files, and other records.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1897 (Davis) Identity theft: remedies.

Provides that a person who reasonably believes that he or she is the victim of identity theft has the right to file a police report to that effect and requires the law enforcement agency to conduct an immediate investigation.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1913 (Cardenas) Local law enforcement funding.

Appropriates \$242.6 million for local law enforcement programs: \$121.3 million to continue funding of the Citizens Option for Public Safety program; and, \$121.3 million to a juvenile justice initiative to be administered by the Board of Corrections.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1949 (Hertzberg) Identity theft: regional pilot projects.

Enacts the Identity Theft Victim's Protection Act of 2000, which would, as a three-year pilot project, direct the Department of Justice to establish special Regional Identity Theft Units in designated regions. The units specialize in investigating and prosecuting identity theft and

providing information to the public. These units will include investigators with the necessary expertise to adequately confront this growing crisis and act as a clearinghouse of information on identity theft for law enforcement, victims, and the public, and will respond to the needs of victims. The department will disburse grants and funds of up to \$3 million annually for the creation of these units.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1993 (Romero) Peace officers: false evidence.

Enacts a specific crime and penalty applicable to peace officers and others who plant or move physical evidence with the specific intent that a person will be charged with a crime.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2101 (Migden) Media access to prisoners.

Allows representatives of the media to interview prison inmates in person, as long as that access does not pose a threat to the security of the institution or to a member of the public, and it is done with the will of the inmate.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2425 (Corbett) Stalking.

Increases the longest prison term for repeat stalking by one year, makes revisions to the notice requirements for persons about to be released from jail on stalking charges, and requires, contingent upon a Budget Act appropriation, intensive parole for persons released from prison for stalking convictions.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2462 (Wright) Personal identifying information: identity theft.

Establishes procedures for victims of identity theft to correct criminal records and to prevent credit information that resulted from the identity theft from being released.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2518 (Washington) Crime prevention: drug endangered children.

Establishes, until July 1, 2005, in the Office of Criminal Justice Planning, financial and technical assistance for counties to provide district attorneys and county sheriffs with funds to coordinate multi-agency response teams for the purpose of responding promptly to cases involving drug-endangered children.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2814 (Machado) DNA testing.

Requires the State Department of Justice DNA Laboratory to purge files of persons who are no longer suspects in a criminal investigation within two years of the date of the filing of the information or indictment, or when the laboratory receives notice of acquittal or charges against the suspect were dropped.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 15 (Polanco) Firearms.

Makes it a misdemeanor for any person in California to manufacture, import for sale, offer for sale, give, or lend any "unsafe handgun."

Signed by the Governor.

SB 23 (Perata) Firearms: assault weapons.

Adds a "generic" definition of assault weapons to the Assault Weapons Control Act of 1989; makes manufacturing, importing, selling, lending, or giving of a large-capacity magazine, i.e., any ammunition feeding device with a capacity to accept more than 10 rounds, an alternate felony/misdemeanor.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 78 (Murray) Commissioner of the California Highway Patrol: annual report.

Requires each member of the California Highway Patrol to report to the commissioner, in the manner prescribed by the commissioner, as to the number of motor vehicle drivers stopped by law enforcement, whether or not a citation or warning was issued, for each stop. On July 1, 2002, and July 1, 2003, imposes the same reporting requirements on each city and county law enforcement agency in specified counties, and on July 1 2003, and July 1, 2004, imposes those requirements on city and county law enforcement agencies in all other counties.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 103 (Johannessen) Dog bites: penalties.

Increases the penalty if a dog bites a human on two separate occasions or on one occasion causing substantial physical injury.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 334 (Alpert) Youthful offenders: education.

Enacts the "No More Victims Violence Prevention and School Safety 2000 Strategy." Provides funding for school counselors, phones in classrooms, and other keys to safe schools. Requires safety plans for all schools, coordinates safe schools efforts between the Attorney General and the Superintendent of Public Instruction, requires mandatory secured detention for minors charged with firearm crimes and automatic adult court for some violent juvenile offenders. Focuses attention on neighborhood gang control strategy, enhances victims' rights in juvenile proceedings, and improves communication between schools and the juvenile justice system.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 377 (Polanco) Criminal conduct of state employees.

Expands the scope and increases the penalty for the crime of sexual activity in a public detention facility between staff and a person detained in the facility. Provides for a minimum 30-day suspension for any employee of the Youth and Adult Correctional Agency who engages in acts of retaliation against another employee.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 446 (Dunn) Sex offenders: registration.

Requires a current photograph to be forwarded to the Department of Justice prior to the release from custody of any person required to register as a convicted sex offender.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 563 (Speier) Battery: domestic partners.

Expands the list of domestic violence victims to include former spouses and cohabitants.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 873 (Vasconcellos) Sentencing: prior convictions: joint study.

Requires the Legislative Analyst to study aspects of the "Three Strikes" law and report his or her findings to the Legislature by December 31, 2000. The study must also include an assessment of the cost to victims as a result of being victimized and the resultant costs to state and local governments.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 1199 (Costa) Child protective services: reports.

Requires the Department of Corrections to notify local law enforcement and child welfare offices of sex offenders paroled into their community.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1250 (Escutia) Restitution.

Adds the cost of a crime victim's mental health therapy to the list of expenses to be considered when imposing an order of restitution upon a criminal defendant.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1342 (Burton) Forensic testing: post conviction.

Grants to a defendant who was convicted of a felony and currently serving a term of imprisonment, the right to make a written motion for the performance of forensic DNA testing. Requires that the motion include an explanation of why the applicant's identity was or should have been a significant issue in the case.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1784 (Figueroa) Children: molestation.

Expands the list of prior offenses that make annoying or molesting a child under the age of 18 a felony punishable by two, four or six years.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1818 (Speier) DNA data base.

Creates a data bank of the DNA of unidentified human remains and relatives of missing persons to investigate unsolved missing persons' cases.

Signed by the Governor.

Revenue & Taxation

Chair: Assemblymember Wally Knox

The Revenue and Taxation Committee approved major tax measures to improve California's business climate, such as increased research and development credits and more favorable treatment of net operating losses. The committee also approved legislation increasing the senior citizens' property tax credit and the renters' tax relief program and established a long-term care tax credit. The committee also approved legislation related to childcare tax credits, land conservation tax credits, and vehicle license fee reductions.

These measures were incorporated into the State Budget agreement, which provided tax relief of \$1.5 billion in 2000-2001 and nearly \$2.0 billion in 2001-2002.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 10 (Correa) Bank and corporation taxes: minimum franchise tax.

Provides that new corporations will not be subject to the minimum franchise tax for the first taxable year commencing with tax years starting after January 1, 2000.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 61 (Cardoza) Rural Development Export Act of 1999.

Establishes within the California Office of Export Development a rural manufacturing and service export program intended to assist the state's rural business community to become full participants in the global economy.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 358 (Wildman) Qualified television programs and motion pictures tax credits.

Provides a tax credit of 10 percent of the amount of certain wages and salaries paid to employees and contractors involved in qualified television and movie productions and any musical scoring session for a TV program or movie.

Held in the Senate.

AB 465 (Nakano) Bank and corporation taxes: research and development.

Conforms state law to federal law by providing that the state alternative incremental credit for research shall be 85 percent, rather than 80 percent, of the federal alternative incremental credit amounts prior to recent federal law changes increasing the credit.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 480 (Ducheny) Personal income tax.

Allows a refundable credit for the costs of employment-related child and dependent care expenses that are necessary for gainful employment, incurred by people who maintain a household in California during the taxable year.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 484 (Kuehl) Film California First Program.

Creates the "Film California First Program" within the State Trade and Commerce Agency to assist in the underwriting of actual costs incurred by production companies filming in California.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 511 (Alquist) Taxation.

Establishes the Rural Investment Sales Tax exemption for eligible persons that make a new investment of at least \$150 million and employ at least 500 new full-time employees in a California county with an average annual unemployment rate three points or more above the statewide average for the most recent calendar year.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 563 (Honda) Sales and use taxes: transfer of animal.

Provides a sales and use tax exemption for all pet adoption fees charged by local government animal shelters and nonprofit animal welfare organizations.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 858 (Kuehl) Vehicle license fee offsets.

Increases from 35 to 67.5 percent the reduction in the fee that motor vehicle owners pay to register their vehicles. City and county revenue losses from this tax cut will be reimbursed by the state.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1120 (Havice) Personal income taxes: qualified small business stock.

Removes the requirement that qualified small business stock be issued before January 1, 1999, in order for noncorporate investors who purchase and hold that stock for at least five years to exclude 50 percent of the gain they realize on the sale or exchange of the stock.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1121 (Nakano) Vehicle license fee: offset.

Increases the reduction in the vehicle license fee from 25 percent to 35 percent for one year, commencing January 1, 2000. Requires the General Fund to pay cities and counties for the loss of revenues.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1626 (Torlakson) Taxation: low-income housing.

Increases the annual low-income housing tax credit limit from \$35 million to \$50 million to help increase construction of low-income housing.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1728 (Villaraigosa) Gross income exclusion: reparations.

Excludes from gross income any reparation payments paid to persons who were required to perform slave or forced labor or sell property at below market value during World War II. Applies to payments made by the German Remembrance, Responsibility and Future Foundation and any other sources of humanitarian reparations established for this purpose.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1774 (Lempert) Personal income and bank and corporation taxes: deductions.

Incrementally increases the net operating loss deduction carry forward amounts authorized under the Personal Income and Bank and Corporations Tax Law, particularly important to California's high-tech and agricultural sectors, due to the cyclical nature of their industries.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1784 (Lempert) Internet Tax Freedom Act: continuation.

Provides that the California Internet Tax Freedom Act becomes inoperative on January 1, 2005, and that it becomes operative only if AB 2412 (Migden and Aroner) of the 1999-2000 Regular Session is enacted and becomes effective on or before January 1, 2001.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1811 (Reyes) Taxation: credit: qualified farmworker housing.

Allows the Tax Credit Allocation Committee to commit future years' tax credits for the farmworker housing program for projects, allows the credit to be awarded before costs are incurred, and allows the credit to be used by the taxpayer once the farmworker housing is placed in service.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2092 (Reyes) Disabled veterans: benefit eligibility.

Allows a disabled veteran to retroactively file for disabled veterans' benefits, including the disabled property tax exemption, if the delay in filing is due to a delay by the federal government in issuing a disability rating.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2165 (McClintock) Vehicle license fee offsets.

Requires the vehicle license fee reductions enacted as part of the 2000-2001 State Budget Act be treated as offsets to the VLF payment due, rather than as rebates.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2412 (Migden) Sales and use taxes: retailer.

Clarifies that the processing of orders electronically, by fax, telephone, the Internet, or other electronic ordering process, does not relieve a retailer of responsibility for collection of the tax from the purchaser if the retailer is engaged in business in this state.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2562 (Brewer) Property taxation: disabled veterans' exemption.

Permits retroactive disabled veterans' exemptions, increases the amount of the partial exemption granted on claims that are filed late and permits the exemption to be granted immediately on a new home purchased by a disabled veterans.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2871 (Correa) Income taxes: credit: long-term care.

Authorizes a nonrefundable \$500 credit for taxpayers who require long-term care or for their caregivers effective for the 2000 through 2004 tax years. This tax credit will assist in the provision of long-term care for elderly family members and children in need of it, which has become a significant challenge for a large number of American families.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2879 (Jackson) Income Taxes: credit: teacher retention.

Authorizes a nonrefundable credit equal to \$250, \$500, \$1,000, or \$1,500 to teachers based on their years of teaching experience, designed to encourage teacher retention and compensate teachers for unreimbursed expenses related to professional development and classroom instruction.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1362 (Poovich) Disabled veterans' exemption.

Maintains the current level of property tax exemption for disabled veterans by eliminating the current sunset provision that would otherwise trigger a substantial lowering of the exemption. Also updates the income threshold so that disabled veterans with incomes below \$40,000 will receive a higher exemption.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1647 (O'Connell) Conservation.

Enacts the Natural Heritage Preservation Tax Credit Act of 2000. Provides that property may be contributed to the state, any local government or to any nonprofit organization designated by a local government to protect wildlife habitat, open space, and agricultural lands, for a credit against those taxes due under the Personal Income Tax Law and the Bank and Corporation Tax Law in an amount equal to 55 percent of the fair market value of any qualified contribution.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1664 (Karnette) Seniors' tax assistance: property tax equivalent.

Provides a one-time 150 percent increase in property tax assistance payments for low-income senior citizens and disabled individuals for the 2000-01 fiscal year.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1933 (Vasconcellos) Taxation and the new economy.

Establishes the California Commission on Tax Policy in the New Economy to examine the impact of the Internet and other forms of electronic technology on various types of taxes.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2195 (Soto) Property taxation: veterans' exemption.

Eliminates the January 1, 2001, reduction in the existing disabled veterans property tax exemption.

Signed by the Governor.

Transportation

Chair: Assemblymember Tom Torlakson

Under the leadership of Chairman Tom Torlakson, the Assembly Committee on Transportation passed significant legislation to implement the landmark Traffic Congestion Relief Plan, a six-year plan that, among other things, ensures that all of the state's tax revenue from the sale of gasoline is used for transportation purposes. The committee also passed legislation to streamline the process for delivering vital transportation projects across the state, strengthen safety regulations governing vehicles that are used to transport farm workers, and repeal the Smog Impact Fee, a \$300 fee imposed on used vehicles brought in from other states. Additionally, the committee passed legislation to dedicate funds for new crosswalks, sidewalks and bicycle paths to improve the safety of children and families.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 15 (Gallegos) Schoolbuses: passenger restraint systems: seats.

Requires that schoolbuses manufactured on or after January 1, 2002, that are sold in California, be equipped with a passenger restraint system.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 555 (Reyes) Farm labor vehicles.

Strengthens the safety regulations governing farm labor transportation vehicles by requiring the Labor Commissioner to provide the California Highway Patrol with a list of all registered farm labor vehicles on a quarterly basis. Extends the inspection liability for farm labor vehicles to vehicle owners and farm labor contractors and increases fines for violations of inspection requirements for farm labor vehicles.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 602 (Florez) Farm labor vehicles.

Restricts the transportation of persons in or on the back of a flatbed or pickup truck; prohibits the transportation of persons in a farm labor vehicle that is not in compliance with federal seating requirements; establishes requirements for securing tools transported in farm labor vehicles, exempts farm labor buses from vehicle seatbelt requirements until 2007; and applies farm labor vehicle safety requirements to any public transit vehicle used to transport farmworkers.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 809 (Lowenthal) Vehicles: smog impact fee: refunds.

Refunds smog impact fees, plus interest and late-payment penalties to out-of-state drivers who moved to California and registered their cars.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 872 (Alquist) Transportation: regional and local project funds: allocation and transfer.

Authorizes a regional or local agency to expend its own funds to advance a transportation project included in the State Transportation Improvement Program and subsequently be reimbursed by the state for the expenditure advance. Prescribes procedures for streamlining the transfer of state funds authorized for a local or regional project.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1012 (Torlakson) Transportation: project delivery: funding.

Establishes a process to accelerate the delivery of local and state transportation projects programmed through CalTrans and the California Transportation Commission. Includes provisions for:

- a pilot program for project delivery advisory teams in four districts of the State Department of Transportation;
- an effort to develop a more sophisticated project management information system within the department;
- adding a two-year advance project development element to the State Transportation Improvement Program process;
- creating a revolving account for reimbursable work performed by the department for local agencies;
- establishing a State Highway Account loan program for local transportation agencies; and
- establishing authority for the state to reallocate federal transportation funds which remain unobligated by local agencies and are in danger of lapsing and being lost to other states.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1165 (Florez) Farm labor vehicles: safety belts.

Requires that farm labor vehicles be equipped with safety belts. Requires the operator of a farm labor vehicle to request the scheduling of the currently required safety inspection by the California Highway Patrol (CHP). Requires the CHP to develop an "800" telephone number system to report farm labor vehicle safety-related violations.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1287 (Davis) Operation of vessels: boating safety courses.

Requires children 11 years and younger who are on a motorboat, sailboat, or vessel that is 26 feet or less in length, and any person on board a personal watercraft or any person being towed behind a vessel on water skis or a similar device, to wear a Coast Guard-approved personal flotation device. Requires the Department of Boating and Waterways to develop a model educational course for the instruction of recreational boaters in safe boating principles and regulations; it may also include education on protecting the environment.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 1475 (Soto) Highways: Safe Routes to School Construction Program.

Designates a portion of federal transportation safety funding apportioned to the state under the federal Hazard Elimination/Safety program to be used by local governments to improve school area safety by installing new crosswalks, building bicycle paths and lanes, constructing sidewalks where none exist, and implementing traffic calming programs in neighborhoods around schools.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1703 (Florez) High-speed rail service.

Extends the termination date of the High-Speed Rail Authority from June 30, 2001, to December 31, 2003.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1792 (Villaraigosa) Vehicles: disabled persons' parking: violations: fines and penalties.

Requires the Department of Motor Vehicles to conduct an annual random audit of applications for disabled person parking placards to verify information submitted in support of those applications. Makes changes in the application process for disabled placards and increases the penalty for misuse of a placard.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2001 (Longville) Space industry.

Establishes a process for promoting development of a commercial space transportation system by establishing spaceport development zones.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2091 (Rod Pacheco) Transportation: State Highway Route 91 toll facility.

Requires an independent appraiser to conduct an appraisal of the fair market value of a toll facility constructed on State Highway Route 91. Establishes the Route 91 Toll Facility Authority.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2140 (Keeley) Regional transportation plans.

Establishes new requirements regarding the contents of long-range planning documents that are developed by designated transportation planning agencies. Requires designated transportation planning agencies to, among other things, develop at least one alternative planning scenario as part of their long-range transportation plans.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2252 (Maldonado) Aviation: spaceports.

Allows airport districts to encourage spaceport development by building and maintaining spaceports and landing places for space vehicles. Allows the districts to make rules for spaceports to raise money for building spaceports, including bonded debt.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2643 (Calderon) Los Angeles County: transit operation funding.

Requires that municipal bus operators in Los Angeles County receive a proportionate share of all bus operating and capital funds budgeted, allocated or expended by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2821 (Cardoza) Department of the California Highway Patrol.

Declares legislative intent that the California Highway Patrol (CHP) report annually on the extent to which sufficient staffing in the CHP has been attained, and urges the CHP to seek a minimum of 300 officers per year for five years.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2848 (Firebaugh) Environmental impact reports.

Revises procedures under the California Environmental Quality Act to clarify that a federal agency must prepare the environmental impact statement, and requires the lead agency to also notify that federal agency regarding any scoping meeting for the proposed project.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2928 (Torlakson) Transportation: finance.

Implements the Governor's Transportation Congestion Relief Plan, dedicates gasoline sales tax revenues to transportation for five years, and provides additional funding for local streets and roads, the State Transportation Improvement Program, and the Public Transportation Account.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 215 (Karnette) Vehicles: smog impact fee: refunds.

Repeals the state's Smog Impact Fee, a \$300 fee imposed on used motor vehicles brought in from out-of-state for use in California that was deemed unconstitutional by an appellate court in October 1999. Provides the funding necessary to make refunds, plus state tax-exempt interest, to those individuals who have paid the fee since November 1990.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1146 (Burton) Motor vehicles: pollution control devices.

Requires the California Air Resources Board to adopt regulations to require automobile manufacturers to disclose information for the repair or manufacture of emissions-related motor vehicle parts to any person engaged in the business of servicing or repairing motor vehicles or engaged in the manufacture or remanufacture of emissions-related motor vehicle parts. Auto makers have refused to disclose such information, which had the effect of requiring such repairs to be done by dealers.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1329 (Karnette) License plates.

Requires organizations that seek special interest license plates to be tax-exempt charitable organizations and to submit a financial plan specifying how revenues generated from sales of the plates will be used.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1819 (Dunn) Motor vehicle franchises: restriction.

Revises the Automotive Franchise Law to restrict the ability of an auto manufacturer to own or operate a competing dealership within ten miles of an independent franchisee of that carmaker. Makes additional changes, including requiring manufacturers to provide equal treatment to each franchisee in terms of parts supply, inventory, etc.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2084 (Polanco) Transportation.

Replaces the existing vehicle license fee, and registration and weight fees on trailers with a new weight fee system on commercial motor vehicles, to comply with federal law.

Signed by the Governor.

Utilities and Commerce

Chair: Assemblymember Rod Wright

The Assembly Committee on Utilities and Commerce, under the leadership of Chair Roderick Wright, dealt with a wide array of issues during the 1999-2000 Session, including agricultural electric rates, the governing structures of the Independent System Operator and the Power Exchange, the California Energy Commission's power plant siting process, low-income energy efficiency and rate assistance programs, and area code relief.

The committee also focused on issues relating to electric restructuring. In 1996, the Legislature enacted landmark legislation (AB 1890, Brulte, Chapter 854) in order to establish a competitive electric generation market. This summer, electricity prices soared in the state. Customers in the San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) service territory, unlike most ratepayers in the state, are no longer protected by the AB 1890 rate freeze.

To provide rate relief for SDG&E ratepayers, the committee passed AB 265 (Davis) which establishes a rate cap for most SDG&E customers, retroactive to June 1, 2000. The committee also passed legislation (AB 995 and SB 1194) which extends the AB 1890 public benefit charge to fund public interest research and development, renewable energy, and energy efficiency programs, and reaffirms the policy that each investor-owned utility shall continue to operate its electric distribution grid in its service territory and have a reasonable opportunity to recover its costs. This bill requires various reports relating to these programs, and requires further legislative action before program moneys can be expended.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 61 (Cardoza) Rural Development Export Act of 1999.

Establishes within the California Office of Export Development a rural manufacturing and service export program intended to assist the state's rural business community to become full participants in the global economy.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 180 (Havice) International trade: public-private trade development organizations.

Requires the Trade and Commerce Agency to develop a statewide alliance of public-private trade development organizations to undertake the development of trade opportunities in the state by using public and private sector resources to measurably increase California's trade by providing coordinated services statewide on a one-stop basis.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 265 (Davis) Electrical Restructuring.

Stabilizes the price of electricity for consumers and small business in San Diego at 6.5 cents per kilowatt-hour. These rates will be retroactive from June 1, 2000 and extend to December 31, 2003.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 535 (Reyes) Telecommunications: services.

Requires telephone service providers to provide customers with information about pay-per-use features and blocking options. Provides that customers are entitled to a one-time waiver of charges for the inadvertent or unauthorized activation of such services.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 970 (Ducheny) Electrical energy: thermal powerplants: permits.

Establishes expedited processes for California Energy Commission siting of both temporary "peaking" and permanent thermal powerplants to expedite siting of the cleanest and more efficient electricity powerplants while making major new commitments to conservation and demand side management programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 991 (Papan) Internet access: line sharing.

Requires the California Public Utilities Commission to monitor and participate in the Federal Communication Commission's proceeding examining line sharing and adopt appropriate rules.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 995 (Wright) Electric restructuring: public benefit programs.

Establishes the "Reliable Electric Service Investments Act," and requires the California Energy Commission to develop an investment plan for the renewable energy and research and development programs. Also requires the Public Utilities Commission and the Energy Commission to continue to administer energy efficiency programs. Extends, until January 1, 2012, the current surcharge on electricity to fund these programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1263 (Thomson) Telecommunications: "911" calls.

Permits a public safety agency other than the California Highway Patrol to directly receive a wireless "911" call if it is technologically feasible to do so, thus relieving the CHP from having to handle calls outside of its jurisdiction and leading to a quicker, more accurate emergency response.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1393 (Wright) Low-income electric and gas customers.

Provides for continued utility administration of energy efficiency programs targeted to low-income gas and electricity customers, and specifies quality of service factors to be used as bidding criteria for contracts funded under these programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1825 (Strom-Martin) Rural telecommunications infrastructure: grants.

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to establish a grant program to provide community-based groups with resources to build telecommunications infrastructure in areas of the state not currently served by existing local exchange services.

Vetoed by the Governor.

AB 2076 (Shelley) State Energy Resources Conservation and Development Commission: fuel supply.

Requires the California Energy Commission (CEC) to examine the feasibility of operating a strategic gasoline reserve for the state, and requires the CEC, if it finds it feasible, to request the Legislature to provide specific statutory authority and funding for establishment of such a reserve.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2721 (Wesson) Automatic dialing-announcing devices.

Requires any company using automated dialers to ensure that, by July 1, 2001, every call they make has a live operator greet the called person instead of terminating the call if the automated dialing device dials faster than the live operator can get to the call. Clarifies that when the user of the automated dialer reaches an answering machine, consent is not implied and no message may be left.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2757 (Committee on Utilities and Commerce) Public utilities: telephonic reading system.

Requires the Public Utilities Commission to implement a program to provide statewide toll-free access, using a single toll-free number, to a telephonic reading system for individuals with print-reading disabilities.

Vetoed by the Governor.

SB 282 (Kelley) Utility service rates: rural areas.

Requires the California Energy Commission to report on various activities related to reducing energy costs and improving competitive opportunities for California agriculture and other rural energy customers. Also requires the California Public Utilities Commission to include related information in its annual work plan.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 418 (Polanco) Public utilities: transition property.

Authorizes the California Public Utilities Commission to order a fair and reasonable credit to ratepayers of any excess rate reduction bond proceeds.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1388 (Peace) Electrical power facilities.

Requires power plant licensing improvements recommended by the California Energy Commission, states reasonable expenditures for planning and engineering of transmission facilities is in the public interest, and establishes pilot programs to test small customer responsiveness to energy usage and price information.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1712 (Polanco) Universal telephone service.

Directs the Public Utilities Commission to initiate an investigation and open a proceeding to examine the current and future definitions of universal telephone service.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1741 (Bowen) Telecommunications: technology-specific area codes.

Provides area code relief by requiring the Public Utilities Commission to request authority from the Federal Communications Commission to require telephone corporations to establish technology specific area codes and permit seven-digit dialing within the technology specific area code and the underlying pre-existing area code.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1939 (Alarcon) Public utilities: electric power: irrigation districts.

Requires local publicly-owned utilities, including irrigation districts, which have not implemented programs for low-income electricity customers, to perform a needs assessment and establish rate assistance and energy efficiency programs to their customers.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 2012 (Speier) California Public Broadcasting Act of 1975: emergency broadcasting grants.

Appropriates \$25 million to be administered by the Office of Emergency Services for matching grants to public television and radio stations to install digital broadcasting equipment.

Signed by the Governor.

Veterans Affairs

Chair: Assemblymember John Dutra

In the 1999-2000 legislative session, the Assembly Committee on Veterans Affairs, under the guidance of its Chair, Assemblymember John Dutra, undertook a long-term effort to reform the administration and delivery of state veterans' services. Particularly in the past year, the Assembly made clear its bipartisan commitment to bring the full authority of the legislative branch to bear upon improving the quality of life of California veterans.

The California Veterans Board and the hierarchy of the Department of Veterans Affairs both were restructured to bring greater accountability and more thoroughgoing oversight to California's programs for veterans. The Cal-Vet Loan Program was first reformed and then refinanced with a half-billion-dollar bond issue submitted to voters for approval in November. Henceforth, Cal-Vet loans will have to be processed at a rate commensurate with the pace of private sector lenders. Additional legislation ensures that lifetime passes to state parks will be extended to a far broader group of disabled veterans.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 session.

AB 92 (Floyd) Inspector General for Veterans Affairs.

Creates the Office of Inspector General for the California Department of Veterans Affairs that would be responsible for reviewing the operations and financial condition of each Veterans' Home, the veterans farm and home purchase program and other veterans programs.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 193 (Cardoza) Veterans homes.

Establishes a Governor's Commission on California Veterans Homes consisting of 12 appointed and ex-officio members to advise the Governor and the Legislature on the establishment of veterans homes in California. Requires the commission to report to the Governor and the Legislature on or before October 1, 2001, concerning its findings and recommendations for the development and construction of activities of veterans homes in California.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 938 (Dutra) Escheat: military awards.

Requires the State Controller to turn over to the California National Guard Museum and Resource Center any military medals, awards or decorations, (e.g. Medals of Honor), that have been acquired by the state from estates where no heirs have been found. Prevents persons who are not awarded such honors from obtaining them in government auctions.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1978 (Cedillo) SSP benefits for veterans.

Permits certain veterans who served in military forces of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Philippines during World War II and who live in California to return to the Philippines and continue to receive benefits under the State Supplementary Program, if they were receiving those benefits on December 14, 1999.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2305 (Dutra) Veterans' Bond Act of 2000.

Authorizes Proposition 32, a \$500 million general obligation bond for financing the Cal-Vet Loan Program, to be submitted for voter approval on the November 2000 General Election ballot.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2933 (Committee on Veterans Affairs) Cal-Vet Loan Program.

Reforms the Cal-Vet Farm and Home Loan Program, directing the Department of Veterans Affairs to establish all systems, procedures, technologies and guidelines necessary to achieve efficient loan processing at a pace competitive with private-sector services. Requires that one member of the California Veterans Board has expertise in real estate finance and that one member has expertise in senior health care.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 630 (Dunn) Veterans' homes.

Enacts the Veterans' Homes Bond Act of 2000 that authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$50 million for the design, construction and renovation of veterans' homes.

Signed by the Governor.

SB 1454 (Chesbro) Veterans' homes: residents' rights.

Establishes the right of veterans residing in a veterans' home to complain to the administrator about home accommodations and services without fear of reprisal. Requires the administrator to inform residents of this right and to post a notice of this right in the homes.

Signed by the Governor.

Water, Parks & Wildlife

Chair: Assemblymember Mike Machado

During the 1999-2000 legislative session, the Committee on Water, Parks and Wildlife, under the leadership of Assemblymember Mike Machado, focused on preserving California's natural beauty and wonders, ensuring clean and pure water and protecting California's many species of fish and game.

The committee sent to the Governor legislation authorizing over \$4 billion in financing for safer drinking water, flood protection, state parks, coastline preservation and protection of endangered California species.

Following are some of the most significant bills passed by the committee during the 1999-2000 Session.

AB 18 (Villaraigosa) Bond: parks, water, and coastal protection act.

Enacts the Safe Neighborhood Parks, Clean Water, Clean Air, and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (the Villaraigosa-Keeley Act) that authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$2.1 billion, for acquisition, development, improvement, rehabilitation, restoration, enhancement, and protection of park, recreational, cultural, historical, fish and wildlife, lake, riparian, reservoir, river, and coastal resources.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 560 (Oller) Wildlife: mountain lions.

Expands the conditions under which a mountain lion may be removed or taken by the Department of Fish and Game to include those instances when there exists an imminent threat to endangered, threatened and fully protected sheep species.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 993 (Shelley) Marine resources: Marine Life Protection Act.

Establishes the Marine Life Protection Act. Requires the Department of Fish and Game, using the best readily available information, to prepare a master plan for the management of the state's marine protected areas. The commission, no later than July 1, 2002, must adopt a final plan and program based on the plan and begin implementing the program with available funds.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1584 (Machado) Safe Drinking Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act.

Enacts the Safe Drinking Water, Clean Water, Watershed Protection, and Flood Protection Act that authorizes the issuance of bonds in the amount of \$1,765,500,000 for purposes of financing a safe drinking water, water quality, flood protection, and water reliability program.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 1839 (Machado) Bay-delta program and ecosystem restoration program.

Establishes a new governance structure called the California Bay-Delta Commission to oversee the implementation of the CALFED Program.

Held in the Senate.

AB 2387 (Keeley) California Ocean Resources Stewardship Act of 2000.

Creates a non-governmental trust to fund and facilitate the sharing of information and the coordination of research related to ocean resource management between public and private governmental and non-governmental agencies, institutions and organizations that conduct ocean resource science in California.

Signed by the Governor.

AB 2800 (Shelley) Marine Managed Areas Improvement Act.

Establishes the Marine Managed Areas Consolidation and Improvement Act to eliminate the current complex, unorganized and burdensome array of 18 different marine protected area classifications and create a new uniform classification system, with a clearly defined mission statement, designation guidelines and goals.

Signed by the Governor.

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